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FRIDAY
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THE TIMES

No. 64,572

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 1993

45p

Major shouted down as jobless total passes 3m



Here is the bad news: Gillian Shephard, employment secretary, speaking about the unemployment figures against a Westminster backdrop at her department yesterday

Budget package promised

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND PHILIP BASSETT

A WAVE of anger confronted the government yesterday when unemployment broke through the three million barrier for only the second time this century.

As John Major endured the stormiest scenes of the present parliament, thousands of unemployed people demonstrated at Westminster and at jobcentres across the country. Even professional bodies joined the chorus of protest. The prime minister appeared in the Commons after the cabinet had been told that a package of measures to help the jobless would be included in the March 16 Budget. But, constrained by Budget secrecy, he was unable to announce fresh palliatives to quell the fury he encountered during question time, and he was often drowned out by the shouting as he fiercely defended existing training and employment schemes.

John Smith accused Mr Major of standing "idly by" while unemployment rose and

A furious reaction greeted the unemployment total. The government can expect further trouble when the long term figures come out next week

condemned the latest increase as "economic madness as well as social tragedy". But Mr Major insisted: "We are determined to bring unemployment down and we will."

Norman Lamont is expected to unveil a jobs package costing up to £100 million in the Budget. In addition to the extended range of measures being brought in on April 1, it will include an extension of the training-for-work scheme, an extension of the business start-up scheme, and a relaxation of benefit rules that discourage the unemployed from entering full-time education or doing voluntary work.

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, outlined the new measures to the cabinet yesterday after announcing that the number of people out of work and claiming benefit had risen by 78,726 to a six-year high of 3,062,065. "Our economic policies will bring unemployment down and will keep the country down," she said.

But in spite of ministers' careful attempts to emphasise

that tackling unemployment has top priority, there are further difficulties in store for the government next week when figures are published showing that the long-term unemployed — those of work for more than a year — now number almost a million. Mrs Shephard will also face close questioning from the Commons employment select committee, whose Labour chairman, Greville Janner, yesterday condemned the three million figure as disgraceful.

The only glimmer of hope yesterday was that seasonally adjusted unemployment rose by only 22,100 to 2,995,100 — the smallest increase for seven months. But the figure is sure to top three million when the February statistics are announced two days after the Budget.

The January jobs rise dominated Commons questions yesterday almost to the exclusion of other issues. Mr Smith told Mr Major: "The country will never forget that it was your government and your Chancellor who told us

unemployment was a price well worth paying," and demanded: "On the day when unemployment has reached the tragic total of three million, will you publicly repudiate this heartless approach?"

Mr Major replied that a comprehensive system of schemes "unmatched in the history of this country or elsewhere in Europe" had been put in place to deal with a problem that existed in every country in Europe.

But the Labour leader came back to declare: "Unemployment at this menacing level is not just a personal disaster for millions of honest and decent people who want to have the independence and dignity that employment can give them, but is an economic millstone round this country's neck." Mr Major retorted: "We are determined to bring unemployment down and we will — but with our policies not yours!" He said the government would be introducing new training schemes in April. Interest rates were at the lowest level for 25 years and retail sales were rising. "Those are the facts that bring positive

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UN refugee chief pressed to restore Bosnia aid effort

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PRESSURE was growing last night on Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to reverse her decision to halt the delivery of UN aid to eastern Bosnia and Sarajevo.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who is touring Mrs Ogata's native Japan, was said to be upset by her unexpected move. "The secretary-general is now intervening, and a big boot will come down," a diplomat said after the UN began its effort to restore aid. A high-ranking UN official said Mrs Ogata the head of an autonomous UN agency, was "back-tracking a bit" from her decision. Mrs Ogata defended her

dramatic move to stop delivering supplies to 100,000 Muslims besieged in eastern Bosnia and the authorities in Sarajevo, who have stopped distribution of UN assistance in sympathy with those starving in the east. "I think it has sharpened attention on the issue and we had strong support from the security council," Mrs Ogata, who is visiting Nairobi, said.

Distribution of aid protected by British troops will continue for several days so long as supplies last. Members of the security council were patently unhappy about Mrs Ogata's decision, which was made without consulting key governments or

even other senior UN officials, including Dr Boutros Ghali. The council issued a statement on Wednesday night condemning the obstruction of aid convoys but emphasising that it attached "the greatest importance" to the restoration of UN aid deliveries. Serb militiamen allowed a stalled aid convoy heading to eastern Bosnia to move yesterday. The ten lorries moved out of Rogatica, where it had been stuck en route to Gorazde, only to find the road blocked by trees further on. A UN officer was last night arranging to clear the road.

Aid turmoil, page 9
Great escape, page 12

Police find new witness in hunt for boy's killers

BY RONALD FAUX

DETECTIVES are now convinced that two-year-old James Bulger was murdered by the two boys who abducted him. As the hunt for the boys concentrated yesterday on the Walton area of Liverpool, two miles from the Bootle shopping centre where James was led away, police revealed that a new witness may have been the last person to see him alive. Police were trying to produce a more detailed description of the suspects based on information provided by the new witness. They are using the E-Fit computer system to construct images of the boys. Detective Supt Albert Kirby, who is leading the enquiry, said there were no indications that an adult was involved in James's death. "I am now convinced that the abductors

Law lords strike blow for press freedom

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS and journalists last night hailed a ruling by the House of Lords as a significant advance for freedom of speech.

Five law lords unanimously ruled that local councils and government departments cannot sue for libel because to allow such actions would fetter the freedom of the press. The ruling upheld arguments used by Times Newspapers against an appeal brought by Derbyshire County Council, which wanted to sue *The Sunday Times* over reports published in 1981. The county council will have to pay Times Newspapers' costs, amounting to more than £300,000.

Yesterday's judgment clarified the libel law and extended the media's right to comment on the way the country is governed. Most significant, according to lawyers, was its recognition that English common law offers protection of freedom of speech comparable with Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.

Anthony Lester, QC, who has argued freedom of speech cases for Times Newspapers, said: "This was a great blow for freedom of speech for the citizen critic and for the press. It is marvellous to be able to obtain effective protection of free expression from our own courts without having yet again to seek redress from the European Court of Human Rights."

Article 19, the anti-censorship organisation, said that the ruling had significantly boosted the public's right to know about how it is governed. "We hope the UK press will now feel freer to carry out genuine investigative journalism into the workings of public institutions without fear of harassment, restraint or penalties."

WANTED BOYS

Merseyside police last night issued a fuller description of the two boys they are hunting in connection with the murder. One is about 13, 5ft 1in, slim with short dark straight hair. He is very pale, with brown eyes, a long nose and long face. He wore a light-coloured three-quarter-length jacket and dark trousers. The second boy is aged 11-12, 4ft 9ins, chubby, with a rounded face, small nose and flat features. His hair was short, with the hair raised slightly to the left. He wore a black shiny zip-up jacket.

are more likely to have caused his death," Mr Kirby said. The new witness is a woman who saw James with the two boys at 4.45pm last Friday in County Road, Walton. She questioned them and the boys said that they wanted to take James to Walton Lane police station because they had found him "down by the Strand".

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Prince sees his future as prophet of environment

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN MEXICO CITY

WITH his marriage all but over and his wife leading a separate life, the Prince of Wales has taken a conscious decision to bury himself in work and rededicate himself to his perceived messianic role as an ecological prophet of the new world order.

Although exhausted and punished by jet lag, high altitude and foul air, the Prince ended his four-day visit to Mexico last night convinced that his future lies as a major player on the world environmental stage.

On his first official overseas tour since his separation, the Prince, in speeches and meetings with Mexican officials and businessmen, repeatedly drove home his message of sustainable development, quality of life and the need for a spiritual dimension in a technological age. He sees his major success of the tour as having set up a meeting of more than 100 influential local business leaders and extracted from them the promise of a wide range of environmental and social projects.

The mood of the visit contrasted with that to South Korea last November when the Prince was furious that all attention during the official tour was focused on the strained personal relations between himself and his wife, and that nobody had taken any interest in the fact that he had helped set up a major waste-recycling programme in the country with the world's largest per capita output of garbage.

In Mexico this week he established the ground work for a programme of rural water supply projects in a country which, although moving rapidly towards

industrialisation, still carries a huge burden of rural poverty. The impetus was provided by a meeting of his Business Leaders' Forum, the 14th since it was set up in 1990, principally to offer assistance to the new democracies of eastern Europe.

Associates of the Prince on his international projects say his strengths lie in not carrying the baggage of either a politician or a businessman. "He is still a charismatic figure despite his personal problems. He has credibility because of his knowledge of



Prince Charles sight-seeing in Mexico

the subject. He has no power, but the one thing he has to offer is the role of catalyst."

On his last day in Mexico yesterday the Prince played the tourist before boarding the royal yacht *Britannia* at the port of Cozumel to sail to an engagement in Jamaica. As the Prince left the country, Homero Aridjis, one of Mexico's leading environmentalists and a respected poet, said: "I have the greatest sympathy with him. Royalty is a species itself in danger of extinction."

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE
FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

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MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

We've been here before, said Pooh

Dennis Skinner asked the Secretary of State for Employment "if he will provide the latest unemployment figures, both nationally and regionally, and if he will make a statement."

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Norman Tebbit: "At 14 October, the number of unemployed people claiming benefit in the United Kingdom was 3,049,008. Lower inflation and interest rates provide a firmer base from which industry and commerce can regain lost customers at home and abroad, thereby generating more jobs...")

Or so the columns of the Official Report tell us. The year was 1982.

Readers whose memories go back even further will remember chapter 3 of *Winnie the Pooh*. "In which Pooh and Piglet go hunting and nearly catch a Woozle." They will remember how the pair set off from a small spinney of larch trees. Later they reach a small spinney of larch trees, and find some mysterious tracks in the snow. "So round this spinney went Pooh and Piglet... Round a spinney of another sort went government and opposition MPs yesterday."

"Three million!" shouted Labour. "Resign!" "Lower interest rates..." shouted the prime minister, "inflation down... We have put in place the conditions for economic growth..."

It was exceptionally boisterous. John Smith slipped into much the manner that Neil Kinnock and Michael Foot before him adopted, whenever unemployment reached a new high: he combined rage with bafflement; rage that so many people could be out of work, and bafflement that Tories could adopt what he considered a supine approach.

Mr Major, under pressure at the dispatch box, grows

like his predecessor. Yesterday he came armed with lists of what the government was doing and what was planned; lists of all the hopeful signs he could find in the economy; lists of everything wrong with Labour. To each shout of "What are you doing?" he would throw another list at MPs. The whole performance approached the classic Thatcherian rants of the 1980s.

Paddy Ashdown followed well-trodden Liberal tracks. He deplored slanging matches and called for positive thinking, offering none himself. I reached for my nursery story "Wait a moment," said Winnie-the-Pooh, holding up his paw. He sat down and thought, in the most thoughtful way he could think. Then he fitted his paw into one of the tracks... and then he scratched his nose twice, and stood up.

"Yes," said Winnie-the-Pooh. "I see now," said Winnie-the-Pooh. "I have been Foolish and Deluded," said he, "and I am a Bear of no Brain at All."

Government and Opposition MPs were busy, yesterday, furiously making new tracks in the snow, new columns in the Official Record for 1993. So busy and so furious that nobody tried fitting their paws into the tracks of the Official Record for 1982.

Perhaps in another 11 years the record for 2004 will take Parliament past a spinney of larch trees, to be joined (should anyone look back 11 and 22 years) by two mysterious sets of tracks in the snow. And the hunt will go on — the hunt for what politicians call "sustained economic growth". The rest of us are scratching our noses and beginning to wonder whether it might be a Woozle.

Major shouted down

Continued from page 1
hope for the unemployed not your empty rhetoric."

Paddy Ashdown said that President Clinton had given his country hope through strong leadership and a clear programme for renewal. "Isn't it fortunate that you don't have to make a State of the Nation address because if you had to, it's perfectly clear you would have nothing to say — not even 'sorry'!"

Away from Parliament, Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "Ministers

should bow their heads in shame for allowing the dole queues to reach these obscene levels." And the criticism from trade unions was usually joined by a number of professional bodies. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors said the figures would send "shudders of fear" through the construction industry, while Neil Johnson of the Engineering Employers Federation, said there could no longer be any doubt about the need for a long-term strategy for growth and employment in Britain.

Economic forecasters are sure joblessness will not drop below three million this year

Unemployment heads for 100-year high

JOHN MANNING

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT looks likely to reach a record high later this year with the latest number of people officially out of work since unemployment records began 100 years ago.

On joblessness trends, this summer unemployment seems likely to exceed the previous record of 3,124 million reached in 1986.

Neither the Treasury nor the employment department publish official forecasts for unemployment, although officials make them internally for planning purposes. In its Autumn Statement, the Treasury published working assumptions about unemployment levels, used largely to calculate the demand for benefits. The assumption for 1992-3 was 2.74 million; already well below the actual level. Independent unemployment analysts do not believe that the assumptions for the following three years of 2.8 million each year are any more likely to be accurate.

Several economic forecasters publish estimates in place of official figures. No forecaster believes that unemployment will dip below three million this year. The average of forecasts made by academic, business and City economists suggests that unemployment will end the year at 3.17 million. The highest estimates suggest it could reach 3.35 million.

Next year is unlikely to be better. Respected forecasters such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the London Business School all suggest that unemployment could dip to 2.9 million.

Other forecasts are as low as 2.5 million, which pulls the average forecast for 1993 down to 3.16 million.

Yet according to the way unemployment used to be calculated before a series of statistical changes carried out by the Conservative government, unemployment is already above four million.

Since 1980, the way unemployment has been calculated has been altered 30 times, according to the Unemployment Unit, the independent unemployment pressure group.

Among the changes monitored by the unit are the removal of unemployed miners from the count from mid 1989; taking out in 1984 all men over the age of 60; changes in 1982 which meant people registered at JobCentres were not automatically included in the count; and the abolition in 1988 of entitlement to income support for 16- and 17-year-olds.

Government statisticians deny that the figures they produce are in any way affected by political considerations.



Getting the message home: a group of unemployed people displaying the latest jobless figure outside the House of Commons yesterday



Headstrong protest: Graham Stone, left, from Wales, and Terry Hunt, from Essex, on a demonstration for the TUC's Jobs Action Day

and say that the alterations to the way figures are compiled were largely in response to changes in the labour market. The Unemployment Unit produces its own index which measures unemployment on a broader basis than the official figures, and produces unemployment totals on the basis of calculations used by the government up to November 1992.

On that premise, according to the unit, in December unemployment stood at 4.1 million, rather than the 2.974 million recorded in the government's figures. On the basis of the government's old calculation, unemployment actually rose above four million last October, when the index put it at 4,017 million.

Yesterday's figure leaves Britain close to the top of the international unemployment league table.

Of 21 countries used by the Department of Employment for comparison, the UK had the ninth highest rate, according to latest figures.

The UK's rate is even worse when compared with other European countries on figures supplied by Eurostat, the European Commission's statistical department. Based on a different way of measuring unemployment, according to Eurostat the UK's rate was 11.3 per cent last November, higher than every other EC country except Spain and Ireland, against an EC average of 9.9 per cent.

The actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit now totals

3,062,065, the government said yesterday.

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said that helping the unemployed to find work was now the "top priority", but Mr Dobson, Labour's employment spokesman, said the new figure was "a tragedy for the people concerned and a disaster for the rest of the people of Britain".

The rise of 78,726 in so-called headline, unadjusted unemployment in January was considerably lower than the increase of 119,200 in the previous month, and than recent January figures — 122,137 in 1992 and 109,366 the previous year.

After the calculations to take account of seasonal factors had been applied, unemployment rose in January for the 33rd consecutive month, by 22,100, the lowest increase for seven months, to stand at 2,995,100. Unemployment on this basis now amounts to a rate of 10.6 per cent of the UK workforce.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rose in all regions of the UK, apart from a slight fall in the north of England. The largest rises continued to be in the south, in east Anglia and the South East.

Vacancies advertised at JobCentres — generally thought to be about a third of all vacancies available throughout the economy — fell by a further 4,400 to 104,700.

Fewer mortgages, page 21

Pay strikes, page 25

Frustrated join call for action

By KATE ALDERSON

ANDREW Reay, 24, has not worked since leaving school. Yesterday he travelled from Newcastle upon Tyne to join hundreds of Britain's three million unemployed who lobbied Parliament as part of the TUC's Jobs Action Day.

"I don't know what it's like to have a job," Mr Reay said. "I've only ever been on training schemes, and none of them lead to work. Years and years of living on £33 a week really gets you down, getting up every day looking for work. I don't know what to do any more."

Chris Sumner, 24, from Newcastle, has been unemployed for a year and cannot find a place on an employment training scheme. "I'll try anything. I want to work. I can't go on like this, it makes you feel pathetic. I applied to Job Club last October and listed at least 20 occupations I was willing to work in, anywhere in Britain, but I've heard nothing."

Many of the unemployed see no end to their cycle of poverty. At the TUC rally at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, sandwiches were handed out at lunchtime and many people took home the leftovers, glad of a free meal.

Mirror bankers back Labour line

The three British banks which own the shares that prop up Mirror Group Newspapers have told the directors that the papers must continue to support the Labour party (Ian Murray writes). The banks, which hold enough shares to dictate policy, have told David Montgomery, the chief executive, that he must ensure that the editorial line remains loyal to the left.

"We have made it plain that the editorial stance should remain what it has always been," one banking source said. "It makes sound economic sense, apart from the fact that Labour represents the likeliest alternative government."

Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, said yesterday that the way in which Alastair Campbell, the *Daily Mirror's* political editor, was driven to leave his job this week showed that the political independence of the paper was being compromised by management decisions.

Treaty escape challenge

John Major was last night challenged on the legality of his escape route from possible defeat over the social chapter. In a letter to Mr Major, Paddy Ashdown said that advice to his Liberal Democrats from Anthony Lester QC, a constitutional lawyer, "makes it clear that parliamentary approval" is needed for full ratification of the Maastricht treaty, including the social chapter. The government had hoped that it had overcome difficulties on the treaty when it said that defeat on amendment 27, attacking Britain's opt-out from the chapter, would not destroy the treaty. The latest legal twist will threaten Tory Eurosceptics and encourage Labour and the Liberal Democrats to back the amendment.

Hogg protests to Iran

The Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg told Iran's senior diplomat in London yesterday that he was deeply disturbed by recent affirmations of a *fatwa* against the author Salman Rushdie. In a 45-minute meeting with Gholamreza Ansari, Mr Hogg said that it was a violation of international law and an incitement to murder. "Mr Hogg said that the British government was deeply disturbed by recent statements by a number of figures in Iran reiterating the *fatwa*," the Foreign Office said. Mr Ansari agreed to report back to his government. The *fatwa*, imposed in February 1989, was reaffirmed on Sunday by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader.

Miners lose case

Mining unions yesterday failed in their High Court challenge to consultation procedures British Coal plans over the early closure of ten pits. At the heart of the case was the failure of British Coal to implement the modified colliery review procedure, which lays down a consultation process. Lord Justice Gledhill said some form of independent scrutiny should take place on future consultations over pit closures. Mark Stephens, the unions' solicitor, declared the action a success as it had obliged British Coal to make clear that the mining consultants appointed to investigate the viability of the threatened pits would not necessarily be seen as providing independent scrutiny.

Husband freed

A man jailed for four years for throwing acid at his pregnant wife was cleared and freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday because the jury convicted him of an offence that does not exist in law. Santokh Singh Mandair was convicted at the Old Bailey in July 1991 of "causing grievous bodily harm" under Section 20 of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act. Yesterday three appeal judges said that section 20 inflicting grievous bodily harm. The word "cause" did not appear. To declare the trial and verdict a nullity would be unjust now because Mandair had already served 19 months in prison, they said.

PETER RIDDELL

Budget deficit looms large as Major waits for tide to turn

Yesterday's Commons exchanges will have brought little comfort to any of the three million unemployed. John Smith and Paddy Ashdown made vigorous attacks and John Major offered a predictable defence.

The politics of unemployment are finely balanced between legitimate anger at the economic and social waste and the calculation of party managers that yesterday's announcement will have little lasting political effect. The experience of the 1980s was that the unemployed did not vote very differently from other people of similar social background. It was the direction and rate of change of unemployment, not the level, that mattered politically.

Senior ministers believe those assumptions still apply, even though unemployment has now spread to Tory strongholds in the South. Hence, it is a question of timing and patience. The rate of growth of unemployment should slacken and the total could even fall before the next election. To



talk of green shoots now would be tedious. However, inflation and interest rates have already come down sharply and the fall in sterling should boost exports. Action has already been taken, in the Autumn Statement last November to encourage the bringing forward of investment. The housing market seems to have stabilised and there are signs of a retail pick-up. The economy may be at a turning-point.

The government should not panic. Any overall expansionary package would work through just when the economy is already growing and such action is anyway ruled out by the need to tackle the existing sharp rise in public sector borrowing. The government's predicament is similar in some ways to that of the Clinton administration: how to assist recovery while at the same time dealing with the budget deficit. The question

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هكذا من الأصل

As James Bulger was led to his death, what were the people of Liverpool doing?

The city with a murder on its conscience

Walter Ellis retraces the abduction of the murdered two-year-old in Bootle, which went virtually unchallenged, and asks how horrors can be committed in our midst

FOR THE people of Liverpool, each reluctant step in the last journey of two-year-old James Bulger represents a knife in the heart of their community.

This is where he was seized. This is where he was dragged, screaming. This is where his abductors asked for help. This is where he died. Then... they could have saved him. Now... they can only offer flowers.

There is no escaping the genuineness of the grief. The exit from the Strand shopping centre in Bootle, where James was seen by security cameras struggling between two older boys, has become a shrine. Another shrine, much larger, has been established beneath the Cherry Lane railway embankment in Walton, close to where his body was discovered by children last Sunday.

Liverpudlians, many of them Irish Catholics by origin, like to sanctify their grief, and the grass bank in Cherry Lane, strewn with flowers, is in direct line of descent from the pitch at Anfield five years ago, after the Hillsborough disaster.

But what Liverpool, and the nation as a whole, wants to know is why this murder, so long drawn out, so public, was allowed to happen in the first place. Why did so many good people, now openly horrified by James's torment and death, pass by on the other side?

It happens in Britain, and elsewhere, all the time: old people are mugged, young women are raped, men are beaten up in railway carriages in full view of their fellow citizens, and hardly anyone complains, still less "has a go". Witnesses are too frightened. They do not know what they can do that will make a difference, and, anyway, it is not their business.

Liverpool is no different except, characteristically, after the event. A dumping ground for immigrants for nearly 200

years and still anguished behind the grandeur of its waterfront facade, the city lives on emotion, fears and hatreds bubble constantly below the surface. The mob, as self-pitying as it is self-righteous, is a constant presence, whether on tour in the Heysel Stadium, Brussels, or at home among the social dereliction of Liverpool 8, or as this week in the back streets of Bootle.

The angry crowd which gathered to condemn and threaten a boy and two adults taken in for police questioning from Sowdrip Street on Tuesday had no knowledge of their likely guilt or innocence: the three were suspects and that was enough.

When the trio were later released, having been eliminated from enquiries, their detractors were nowhere to be seen. Predictably, the mob had melted away to await the emergence of other victims.

So where was Liverpool's fabled community conscience when it was needed?

The journey from the Strand shopping centre to Cherry Lane takes an average 15 minutes, unencumbered by children, about 40 minutes. Police believe that it took James and his captors at least two hours—in daylight.

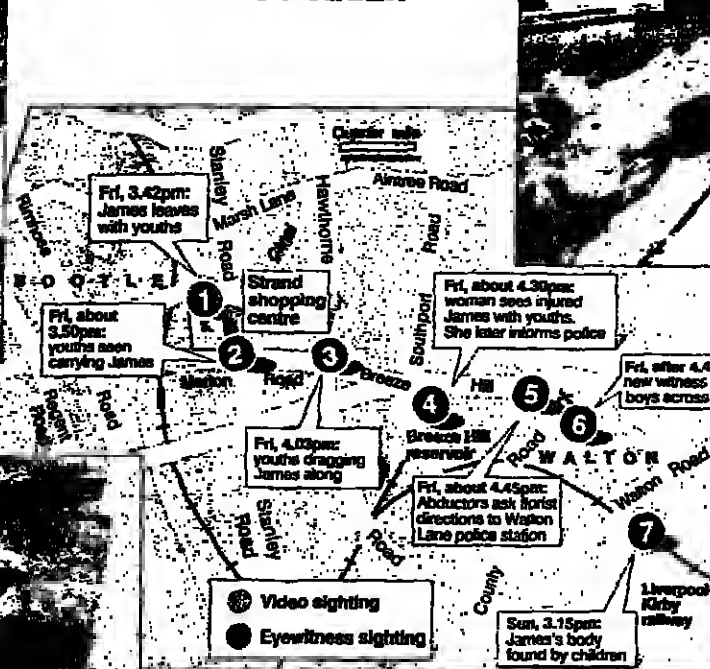
The dead boy's ordeal began shortly after 3.30pm last Friday as he stood outside a supermarket inside the centre, waiting for his mother to buy some groceries. Overhead, security cameras recorded the scene. Two boys, seemingly aged between 10 and 14, can be seen taking the confused toddler by the hand and guiding him forcefully to the exit. There are many adults in the picture, but evidently none was aware that a potential murder was unfolding.

Outside, the two boys and their infant captive, now visibly disturbed, would have crossed the busy main road, passed the canal and turned left into Merton Road, hard by the magistrates' court with



Above: a policeman questions a young mother in the Strand shopping centre

KEY MOMENTS IN THE ABDUCTION AND MURDER OF JAMES BULGER



Left: James is captured on video being dragged away between two juveniles



Above: hundreds of floral tributes on the grass bank near where James was found



Right: the boys' battered body was eventually discovered on the railway line on Sunday

its groups of policemen, lawyers, probation officers and welfare workers.

The road, two miles north of the city centre, is a busy one. James was spotted here, being dragged along, but nobody thought the situation in any way extraordinary.

Merton Road ends after half a mile at a roundabout on the opposite side of which, at the start of Breeze Hill, is sited the AMEC construction company. Security cameras—seemingly Liverpool's only reliable witnesses—again recorded James being hauled along the street, his feet off the ground, by the two unknown juveniles. No one else noticed this, or if they did they did not think it strange.

At this point James had less than an hour to live.

Minutes later, a keen-eyed pensioner walking her dog across a grassed-over reservoir off Breeze Hill stopped the three and asked what was wrong with the little boy.

James had bumps and bruises on either side of his head, she recalled later. "He was crying and screaming and I asked what the matter was." The boys said he had fallen over in the road and they were looking after him. The old lady walked on, worried chiefly that the child was frightened of her dog.

From Breeze Hill, the doomed boy was taken down County Road with its back-to-back terraces. His abductors even called into a flower shop to ask directions. They claimed they were taking James to Walton Lane police station but were not sure of the way. An assistant told them to cross the road and take the path through St Mary's churchyard.

She could see that the two-year-old was distressed and the police station must have seemed the right destination. Another woman helped them across the road. It was the last occasion on which

James Bulger was seen alive—at least by anyone who has so far come forward to the police.

The juveniles were set on their final course: through the cemetery, past the Top House pub and its "warm, family atmosphere", past the Village Store and the video shop.

Here, the trail goes cold. Did the boys intend to leave their frightened victim outside the police station and escape into Walton? Did they panic and throw him down the embankment into the path of a speeding train? Nobody knows. Nobody saw a thing.

Why James's captors took him and why they wished to harm him can only be guessed at. As great a mystery is why the rest of us—not just Liverpoolians—allow such horrors to be committed in our midst and simply walk away, telling ourselves there is nothing wrong, that everything will be all right.

Arrest of boy, 12 'not heavy-handed'

THE chief constable of Merseyside yesterday replied to criticism of heavy-handedness in the arrest of a 12-year-old boy by police investigating the murder of James Bulger. The boy was later eliminated from the enquiry.

Bob Lancaster, a councillor, said at a police authority meeting that he was worried the boy would be stigmatised by the arrest. Several vehicles attended the scene in Kirkdale on Tuesday night amid mob anger.

Chief Constable Jim Sharples told the meeting they acted with due sensitivity. "From the outset there was ample justification for the arrest to be made and it was properly carried out in

our view." He said as there was high emotion in the Bootle area police were aware that bringing anyone in for questioning would expose them to the attention of crowds.

"In fact we would make appeals for people to restrain their emotion to allow us to carry out the enquiry," he said. "There was no requirement for the several vehicles to arrest a 12-year-old but they were there because there was concern about safety of the individual, as well as the family and premises."

Mr Sharples said the police have received more than 2,000 calls, needing action since last Friday. More than 400 statements have been taken.

LECTURE SERIES

The state of Britain

A SERIES of five Channel 4 lectures on the state of Britain are to be supported by The Times.

The first, a trenchant review of Britain in decline, entitled "The Recovery of Power", is by Alan Clark, the historian and former Tory minister, and is broadcast at 8pm on Sunday.

The other speakers will be Sir James Goldsmith, appearing on British television for the first time in nearly 20 years, whose subject is the new economics; Professor Brian Cox on British education; Linda Colley, the distinguished historian now at Yale, on the monarchy, the church and the constitution; and Andrew Sullivan, editor of The New Republic, the American political magazine, on class.

Substantial extracts from each of the lectures, which will be broadcast on Channel 4 at 8pm on the next five Sunday evenings, will be published in The Times the following day.

The series will conclude with a public meeting, organised by Channel 4 in association with The Times, at which the issues raised by the five speakers will be debated. The debate will be broadcast as the concluding part of the Opinions series.

Details of the speakers and of how to book tickets will be published in The Times

Policeman in critical condition after brick is hurled through windscreen

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN was on a life-support machine last night after a brick was thrown through the windscreen of his car while he was chasing joyriders.

PC John Robinson, 37, of Northumbria police, was struck on the forehead in the attack in west Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. Colleagues say that prompt action by his partner, who drove straight to the nearest hospital, probably saved his life. He was transferred to Newcastle General Hospital, where he was reported to be in a critical condition. His wife was at his bedside.

Another police vehicle involved in the pursuit was later rammed by the stolen car, injuring the two officers inside. Although police are not yet linking the two attacks, a senior officer said last night that a "disturbing pattern"

was emerging as the number of such incidents rose. PC Robinson, who has been with the traffic division for six years, is the second officer in the North East to be injured this month by missiles thrown at police vehicles chasing cars taken by joyriders. Two weeks ago a constable with the neighbouring Cleveland police force was knocked unconscious by a stone. Senior officers said later that his car had been led into an ambush by the joyriders.

In the latest incident, which took place on Wednesday night, PC Robinson was the observer in a car patrolling on the A183 in west Sunderland. It was called to assist another police vehicle pursuing a high-performance car that had been stolen earlier in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. As they drove through the Chester Road area, an unseen pedestrian hurled the brick into the car.

Chief Supt Bob Bensley, head of Northumbria's traffic department, said that the

brick "penetrated the windscreen like a bullet". As PC Robinson collapsed in his seat, covered in blood, PC Michael Mohon, drove him to Sunderland General Hospital, three miles away.

"All being well, PC Mohon may have saved his colleague's life," Mr Bensley said. "But PC Robinson is in a life-threatening situation, and this



Robinson: struck on the forehead

is potentially a murder enquiry." He said that attacks on officers chasing joyriders had reached "epidemic" proportions in the North East. "There have been numerous serious incidents during the past two years. There is a pattern and it is disturbing."

Det Chief Inspector John Stoddart, who is leading the search for the brick-thrower, said: "It was a callous, premeditated attack on a police officer who was acting in the public interest. Whoever did this had total disregard for the safety of a very good police officer."

Two of the four occupants of the stolen car, aged 19 and 22, were arrested after it rammed the other pursuing police car. A policeman had to be cut free from the wreck and was treated for shock and whiplash injuries. His partner, Sergeant Jane Hind, who also suffered from whiplash, chased the occupants and was helped by people living on a nearby housing estate to arrest the two men.

Clinton degree angers Thatcher supporters

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

PRESIDENT Clinton was today proposed for Oxford University's highest honour, barely four weeks after entering the White House.

Critics contrasted the university's eagerness to exalt its most powerful son, a former Rhodes Scholar, with the treatment of its most famous woman graduate, Baroness Thatcher. She was prime minister for more than five years before being put forward for a lesser honorary degree and suffered a snub when dons voted down the proposal.

Bill Clinton will receive the degree of doctor of civil law by diploma, an award given only to heads of state and royalty, at a ceremony in Oxford. The Congregation, the dons' parliament, is expected to agree the honour on March 9.

The university said: "The object of the award is to

cement the university's very long-standing relationship with the United States, largely through the Rhodes Scholars, who have been coming to Oxford since the first world war."

Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, urged the Congregation to throw out yesterday's proposal. He collected more than 80 Conservative signatures to a Commons motion condemning the university's treatment of Lady Thatcher in 1985. "The dons exercised their judgment mistakenly last time and they should make amends," he said.

"It is almost insolent after the way Mrs Thatcher was treated. The university is not waiting to see how Mr Clinton does in office."

Clinton's fight, page 10

Five years for pair in death race

TWO teenagers who killed a cyclist in a high-speed race in stolen cars were sentenced yesterday to five years in a young offenders' institution.

Last night, the cyclist's widow condemned the sentence as inadequate. Elizabeth Robins, whose husband, Michael, 53, was knocked down as he cycled home from work on March 30 last year, said: "I am absolutely disgusted. ... Until someone gives them a good hard sentence they are going to get away with it over and over again."

Andrew Tremeth, 17, of Iwer, Buckinghamshire, and Simon Deacon, 19, of Hayes, west London, drove at 80mph in a 30mph zone in Iwer, Reading Crown Court was told.

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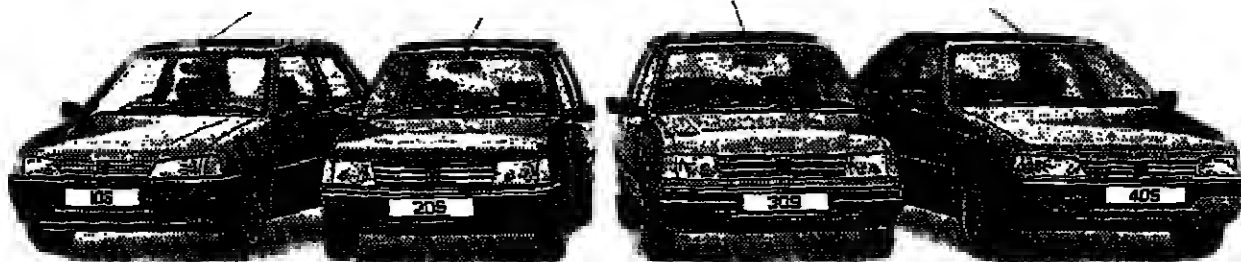
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Horror novel sales to woo teenagers angers teachers

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

A SUGGESTION that book sellers should stock more teenage horror novels to encourage older children to read was greeted with anger by education experts yesterday.

Esther Horwood, books manager for W. H. Smith, told a conference in London: "Amongst older teenagers, all forms of reading appear to be in significant decline. Within this, reading of books is down a massive 18 per cent. We have carried out research among children to discover what sorts of book they like as opposed to ones they are supposed to like."

Mrs Horwood concluded that "there is no point in restricting our range to 'good' books, worthy as that may be - we should sell Point Horror as well." Point Horror is a new American genre of teenage fiction loosely described as "high school meets Stephen King". Ghost stories and "stalk" stories are designed to "send shivers down the spine", a W. H. Smith spokesman said.

Educationalists warned against stocking more teenage horror. Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, said that shops such as W. H. Smith should be selective in what they sold to children and teenagers.

"The big chains have considerable influence on popular culture," he said. "I would say

■ The decline in reading among children has inspired interesting remedies. Not all of them are greeted with enthusiasm

that they should set an example and some of these horror books may have a detrimental effect on young people. These books should certainly not be given the space that 'good' books used to have."

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said that any form of literature was good if it encouraged children to read. But to sell teenage horror at the expense of more traditional literature was a "short-sighted policy".

The Reading Reform Foundation said that horror stories would provide the wrong motivation to read. "There is enough horror in the world anyway," the foundation's secretary, Mona McNeel, said.

Mrs Horwood, adding to her remarks, said that competition from television, magazines and videos was beginning to tell. Children could be encouraged to read by marketing linked to videos and films.

"Film and TV tie-ins are a way of taking advantage of other leisure pursuits, as indeed are video-books and tape-book packages, as well as audio-books themselves," she said.

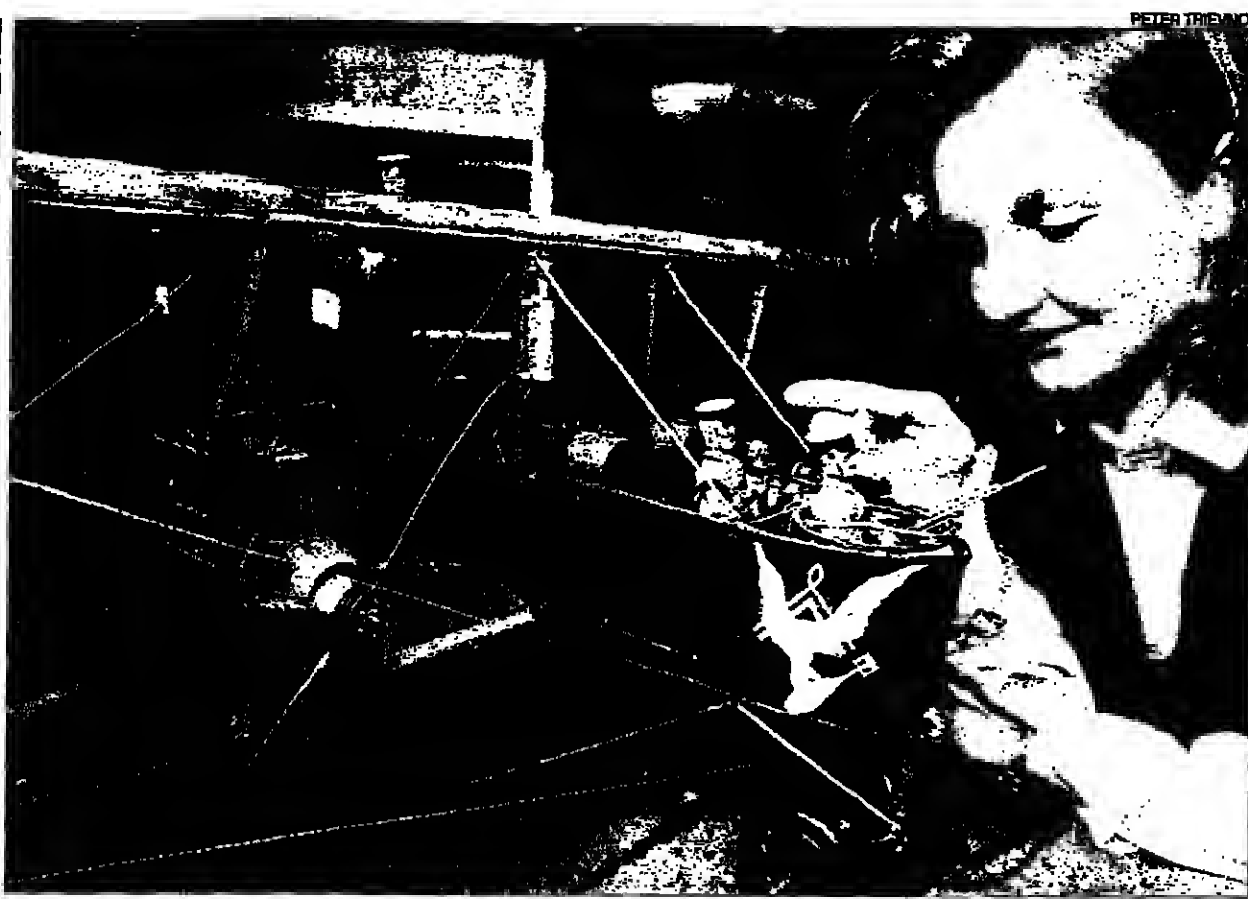
A four-year survey of book

buying habits, published by Book Marketing to coincide with the conference "Books and the consumer", shows that the number of reading adults has decreased slightly. In 1989 71 per cent of adults spent an average of 7.8 hours a week with a book. In 1992 68 per cent spent 7.4 hours. About half the adult population was reading for pleasure at any one time.

The number of adults buying books for themselves or others has remained constant at about 80 per cent, although in 1992 the average number of books each person bought fell. The researchers interviewed 1,800 people from 1989 to 1992.

Results show a gradual decline in the number of people who think paperback books are good value and the report concludes that paperbacks are losing their advantage over hardbacks.

The market for reference books has increased while that for fiction has declined slightly, from 33 per cent of the adult population buying a work of fiction in 1989 to 31 per cent in 1992. The most popular reference books are national road atlases, street guides and English and foreign language dictionaries.



Chocks away: Amber Renwick, of Christie's, gives the crew of a flying scale model of a Caproni Ca-46 in Italian Air Force colours a once-over before its sale for £2,200 in London yesterday. Its estimate was £1,700 to £1,900

Paediatrician was bewildered by death of baby left in nurse's care

By A STAFF REPORTER

charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Asked by John Golder QC, for the prosecution, whether he was able to restart Liam's heart satisfactorily, Dr Nanayakkara replied: "It took me quite a long time and it really worried me a great deal. That was not the normal practice. In my experience, where a baby collapses and then you support it by resuscitation and oxygen under pressure, they do come round fairly quickly and show signs of life. In this instance it took me quite some time to get some signs of life."

The court has been told that Liam suffered an acute respiratory arrest leading to brain damage. He died later the same day.

Dr Nanayakkara had diagnosed that Liam was suffering from blood poisoning and pneumonia, and under cross-examination he admitted that this was potentially life-threatening. He added: "At the time I said this [Liam's death] was not totally unexpected, but I started reflecting, and then had to wonder, 'Is this natural?'"

The doctor said that he wanted a specialist paediatric pathologist to carry out the post-mortem examination. He was "gravely concerned" by the death and could only hope that the post-mortem would show up an abnormality.

James Hunt QC, for the defence, suggested that a mistake by another member of the

hospital's medical team in putting an oxygen tube into Liam's food pipe instead of his windpipe could have made his condition worse rather than better.

Dr Nanayakkara maintained that, because a baby's food passage and windpipe are very close together, even if oxygen were delivered into the child's stomach some of it would diffuse into the lungs. He agreed with Mr Justice Latham, however, that the baby would not have been getting the amount of oxygen it was intended to give him.

In a statement read to the court, Nurse Linda Vowles described her reaction when she learned that Liam had suffered a cardiac arrest. "I was, to put it mildly, astonished because there seemed to have been an improvement the previous evening. I have worked there for seven years and I have never known such a high instance of respiratory and cardiac arrests. I have never known anything like it in 21 years of nursing."

The trial continues today.



Nanayakkara: gravely concerned by death

Pear-shape women are most fertile

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PEAR-SHAPED women are the most fertile, a Dutch study has found. Those whose hips are significantly wider than their waists are twice as likely to become pregnant as the apple-shaped, whose waists are nearly as wide or wider than their hips.

The findings, published in this week's *British Medical Journal*, is based on a survey of 500 women attending an infertility clinic. They were there for artificial insemination because their partner was infertile, so there was no reason to suppose that they were not typical of women in general.

Dr Boukje Zandstra, of the Institute of Preventive Health Care in Leiden, and colleagues weighed and measured the women after getting their approval to take part in the study. They found, as others have, that women who are thin or fat are less likely to become pregnant, but the important variable was the distribution of fat, not its amount.

Those who were most fertile had waist measurements less than 70 per cent of their hip measurements. The least fertile were those whose waists were more than 85 per cent of their hip size. In the first group, 63 per cent were pregnant within a year, twice the proportion in the second group. Those in between the two extremes succeeded in becoming pregnant in proportion to their waist-to-hip ratio.

The Dutch team offers no explanation for the finding, nor does there seem to be much that apple-shaped women can do to help themselves. Slimming, though it may reduce the absolute waist and hip measurements, does not alter the ratio dramatically.

Builder warned of faulty security at riot trial court

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE were last night still hunting for five men involved in the Strangeways prison riot trial who fled from court cells in Manchester on Wednesday. The prisoners, including a man serving life for stabbing someone to death, escaped after going to the lavatory during the trial at Manchester Crown Court.

They clambered into the space above the ceiling in the cell toilets before emerging into a public area. The men entered Court 2, next to the first-floor courtroom where they have been on trial for four months, facing charges arising out of the worst prison riot in British penal history.

"They emerged into the dock and scrambled over the judge's bench and out through the judge's rooms at the back," an official at Manchester Crown Court said. "Then they returned to the ground floor and got out of the building through a fire door."

As a prison governor was putting the finishing touches to a Home Office enquiry into the escape, a Labour MP said that he had alerted the authorities to the design defect that had allowed the men to flee. Bob Litherland, Labour MP for Manchester Central, said he had warned the authorities about security worries over the court's detention centre when it was being built.

A building worker had told him of concern about security. Derek Lewis, the recently appointed director-general of the prison service, ordered Tony Fitzpatrick, the governor of Leeds prison, to produce an urgent report into what he described as "a very serious escape". Mr Fitzpatrick's preliminary findings will be delivered to the Home Office today.

Among those on the run last night was Alan Lord, 31, who was serving life for killing a father of three, David Gilbert, in 1981, and Mark Azopardi, 23.

Both men have escaped before during the trial. Two months after the riot Lord escaped while being held in police cells in Bolton. He was recaptured a few days later in Liverpool in an operation involving more than 60 police officers. Azopardi fled from a prison minibus in December 1992. The three other escapees were named by the Home Office as Barry Morton, 23, John Murray, 24, and Anthony Bush, 27.

The escape is the first security lapse to face Mr Lewis since he took over as head of the prison service last month. He said yesterday: "It would be wrong to anticipate the conclusions of the enquiry but I do want to assure the public that this matter is a cause of great concern to the prison service and that all aspects of the escape, including the role played by prison staff, will be very carefully examined."

Yesterday the four-month trial continued without the missing men. Judge Michael Sachs, who started his summing up earlier in the week, told the jury that five of the defendants had escaped.

"I tell you, not for the first time, that the fact that they have done so in no way at all affects the evidence of what went on at Manchester prison between April 1 and April 25 1990," he said. The jury in the trial, in which 12 men are accused of conspiracy to riot and conspiracy to injure police during the Strangeways riot, is expected to be sent out early next week.

Bigamist sailor gets two years

PAUL Harvey, a naval policeman on HMS Ark Royal with 22 years service who admitted bigamy, was yesterday jailed for two years and expelled from the Royal Navy, a sentence which will cost him £80,000 pension.

Commander Bernard Davis, judge advocate at the court martial at Portsmouth, told Harvey, 44: "The court has reached the decision that the offences committed were so serious that a custodial sentence is the only option."

As the sentence was read out, Harvey's real wife, Sandra, 42, looked horrified and Mrs Carol Rice, a widow whom he married in New Zealand, collapsed in tears. She said later: "I am very relieved that the stresses and strains of this trial are now over. I am very happy to be publicly vindicated but I feel sympathy for Mrs Harvey, and even for Paul."

Lieutenant Commander John Flanagan, for the defence, said that Harvey planned to appeal against the severity of the sentence. He would also appeal against conviction on charges of deception.

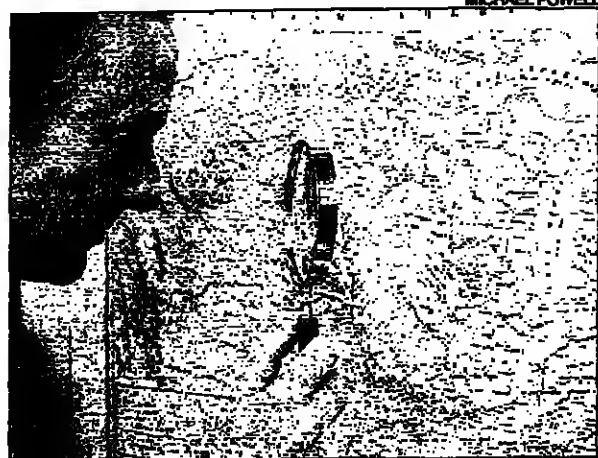
Rare map plates reach journey's end

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

A LONG-LOST engraving plate of an historically important map of North America has been discovered in the basement of a museum. The find has excited scholars because it completes a set of 81 plates that form a unique record of the American Indian culture.

The 150-year-old copper plate shows the route taken by the German anthropologist and botanist Prince Maximilian on his epic journey into the American west between 1832 and 1834.

The engravings were taken from a series of watercolours by Karl Bodmer, the expedition's 24-year-old Swiss artist, and form the first accurate account of the Indian



History lesson: a print taken from the lost plate

ceremonies, dress and villages. They were the source of designs for Indian costumes in the Kevin Cosner film *Dances with*

Wolves. Francis Herbert, curator of maps at the Royal Geographical Society, said the map contained a wealth of ethnographic information.

"Very few of the many copperplates of maps and charts produced by private publishers from the 17th to the 19th centuries survive."

"For the curious it will be seen that Bodmer includes longitude from both Washington and Greenwich along the top and bottom borders."

The plates were feared destroyed during the French revolution in 1848, but the engraver had hidden them under his bed. They eventually found their way to the Joslyn Art Museum in Nebraska, America, but one was mislabelled and remained unidentified in the museum's basement until now. No more than 100 prints were taken from the engraving, which is in pristine condition.

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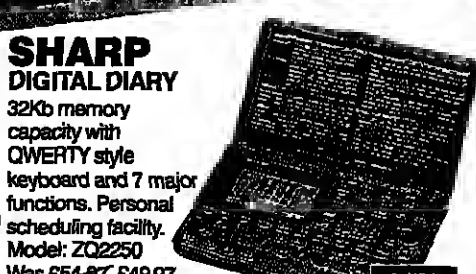
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Bishop wants 'life on Mars' soap opera sent back to Australia



Taylor: tells ordinands to watch *EastEnders*

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE doctrine of loving your neighbour does not extend to loving *Neighbours*, it emerged at the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev John Taylor, criticised the soap opera *Neighbours*, comparing it to "life on Mars". The BBC should learn to make its own soap operas, but could do better than *Eldorado*, he said.

Singling out *Neighbours* as an example of programmes that the BBC could usefully drop, he said

that the corporation should be forced to heed the views of licence payers.

In a clash across the debating chamber at Church House, Westminster, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, insisted that *Neighbours* had an important place in the life of his 94-year-old aunt.

Bishop Taylor said: "The weakness of *Neighbours* is that it is bought from Australia. I would have thought the BBC has the talent to produce its own comparable soap opera, although I hope it does better than *Eldorado*."

Afterwards, Bishop Taylor

praised the BBC's *EastEnders* because it addressed English cultural and social issues, and said that he advised all ordinands to watch it as part of their training. "If they do not watch *EastEnders*, they are not properly educated as clergymen. *Neighbours* is the Australian culture. It is rather like studying life on Mars."

Bishop Taylor said that the BBC should instead pursue quality in its own output, and withdraw from areas where it could not make an original contribution. He called for a representative body of viewers and listeners to whom the board of governors would report.

Arguing that such a body would make the BBC more accountable to licence buyers, Bishop Taylor said that existing advisory councils lacked force because the BBC did not have to take their advice.

The corporation had ignored the Central Religious Advisory Committee's advice that the religious broadcasting department should not move to Manchester, he said. "The BBC does, unfortunately, often give the impression that it knows best."

The bishop called for "some external way of making the BBC accountable to the licence payers, and not just through the board of

governors", and said: "Broadcasting is too important to leave to the broadcasters."

The debate came as synod officials prepare a response to a government green paper on the BBC's future. The synod yesterday backed the view that BBC income should continue to come from licence fees and welcomed the green paper's emphasis on the BBC's role as the main provider of public service broadcasting.

Bishops in the Roman Catholic church will meet next week to discuss how disaffected Anglicans might go over to Rome following the general synod decision to

ordain women priests. Today's *Catholic Herald* says that the bishops will discuss "preliminary terms of reference", the first step in admission of Anglicans to the Roman Catholic church. Formal proposals will be drafted by the Catholic bishops' conference of England and Wales after Easter. Some Anglo-Catholics in the Church of England hope that the Catholic bishops will endorse the "Roman option", in which parishes would retain Anglican identity but under a Catholic bishop. The Vatican has the final decision.

Leading article, page 15

London zoo's £21m conservation plan wins Brooke assent

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A £21.3 MILLION plan to turn London zoo into a conservation showpiece featuring one of the world's main centres for breeding African apes received the government's blessing yesterday. It is planned to continue the scientific study of endangered animals while still offering enough spectacle and entertainment to draw visitors.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, said the plan offered "a sound basis" for negotiations on the renewal of the zoo's 60-year lease on the 36 acres it occupies in Regent's Park. The lease runs out in June 1995. Eight months ago the zoo announced it was to close due to lack of support.

The re-development is scheduled to take place in eight phases and be completed by April 2001. The new-look zoo, which will make use of all existing buildings, will focus on breeding rare or threatened species for reintroduction to the wild. The aim is to raise the required funds from donations, commercial sponsorship and increased gate receipts.

The government went to the aid of the 166-year-old institution in 1988 with a one-off grant of £10 million, long since consumed, and has said there will be no more public money. In a letter yesterday to Sir John Chapple, president of the Zoological Society of London, Mr Brooke said the zoo appeared to have a secure future "based on a new and relevant vision".

Sir John said the strategy was "not just for survival but revival". But questions about the zoo's future remain. There is no agreement on whether to enter into a separate £35 million venture with David Laing, millionaire architect of the Laing construction family, to build a giant walk-through

■ A more secure future for the Regent's Park site has not ended a dispute over the proper role for the 166-year-old institution

aquarium and a three-dimensional wildlife cinema.

Jo Gipps, the former curator of mammals who took over as the zoo's director last month, said the gorilla enclosure would be laid out on the Mappin Terraces, a grade II listed structure built in 1913-14 to resemble the mountain habitat of bears and goats, which has been unused for eight years. The café at the foot of the terraces would be redesigned to provide spectacular views of the animals.

One of the difficulties with the Laing consortium's project is that it would involve sitting the new aquarium on the disused bear pits at the bottom of the terraces and could not be combined with the gorilla enclosure. Some scientists among the zoological society's 2,000 fellows object to the concept of the aquarium, which spectators would pass through in a transparent tube for a close-up view of sharks and an artificial coral reef.

Colin Tudge, a member of the zoo's board who last year led a successful *Punch* campaign against David Jones, the zoo's former director, said: "This seems to me an anachronism — old-style 19th century zoo showmanship with a 20th century technological gloss. Keeping a shark in a huge tank for people to look at and waiting for it to die is the opposite of conservation." But Peter Wrangham, the zoo's treasurer, said similar aquariums in other parts of the world were "a huge draw".

Dr Gipps said the zoo planned to spend just under £3 million in the first phase of the re-development, starting later this year. This will include the creation of a Madagascar

Centre for lemurs and other rare animals from that country and the Indian Ocean islands in the Lubetkin Round House, built for gorillas in the 1930s; remodelling the existing aquarium; and revamping the children's zoo.

The zoo made a small surplus in 1992-3 for the first time in 15 years and hopes to break even next year. Sir John announced that two anonymous donors, one a retired London businessman, had this week promised sums of £250,000 and £1 million, the latter for the children's zoo. Last December the Emir of Kuwait donated £1 million and £300,000 has been raised by the Save Our Zoo appeal.

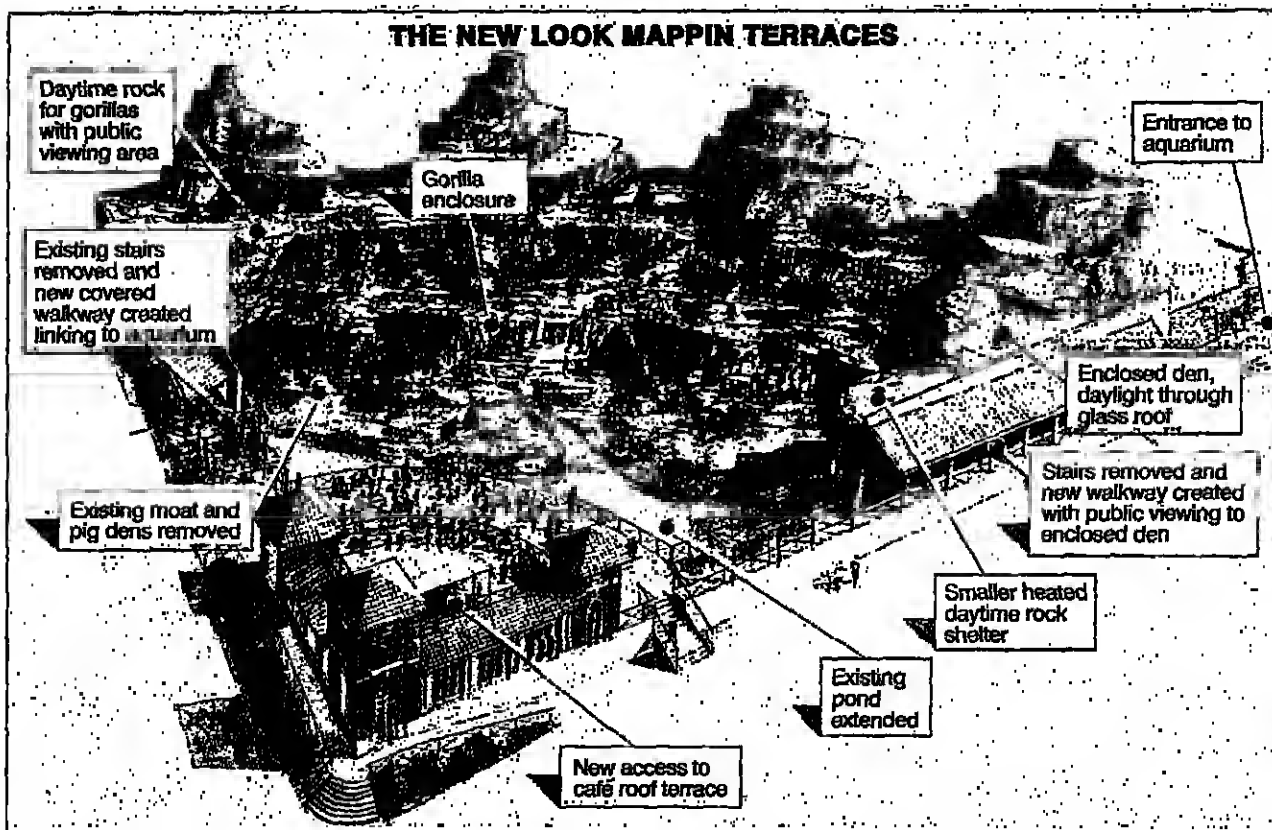
Later stages of the development plan envisage a primate conservation centre, for rare species such as the golden lion tamarin and Sulawesi crested macaque; a Carnivore Conservation Centre, focusing on Asiatic lions and Sumatran tigers, which are threatened in the wild; and a "world class" centre for the conservation of rare insects and other invertebrates such as the war-biter cricket, which is almost extinct in England.

□ Kuwait zoo yesterday reopened its gates for the first time since the Gulf war, when occupying Iraqi troops ate many of its animals and shot others for target practice, including more than 40 monkeys.

Only 5 per cent of the animals survived the war. Among them was Dalai, an Indian elephant who was at the re-opening ceremony with an Iraqi-inflicted bullet wound, treated by a British vet, still visible on her right shoulder.



Saving more than whales: Jo Gipps of London zoo, whose plans include revamping the Mappin Terraces (below)



Churchmen wrestle with moral issue

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A TOPLESS female mud wrestling show on tour in Scotland has incurred the wrath of clergy who have declared it morally unsuitable and threatened to deny the spectacle from the pulpit.

The Rev. Donald Iogis and the Rev. David Burnes, Church of Scotland ministers in Turfiff, Grampian, and the Rev. Robert Haines, of the town's Episcopal church, told Helen Macintyre, the show's promoter, that they wanted the show cancelled.

Ms Macintyre and Patrick Kelly, the manager of the Union Hotel in Turfiff which is staging the show on Saturday, met the ministers, who threatened to call for a boycott of the show on the grounds that it would corrupt morals. Mr Kelly said that when he was countered with a threat to host a series of more raunchy acts if they did so, the ministers backed down.

Ms Macintyre said that the show comprises three topless women, a masked man and a dwarf who wrestle each other in foam rather than mud, which is deemed "too messy". Members of the audience can participate if they wish.

Ms Macintyre said she had invited the ministers to watch the act but they had declined. "I can't understand how they can criticise something so strongly when they haven't even seen it," she said. "They came to the meeting with closed minds. It is just a bit of fun to lighten people's lives."

Despite the ministers' disapproval, tickets for the show are selling well.

MPs fear lottery tax will cut income for charities

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

NORMAN Lamont faced intense cross-party pressure yesterday to cut tax on the national lottery to less than 10 per cent. Backbenchers united in demanding that taxation of the lottery's income should not jeopardise the amount set aside for causes such as arts, charities and sport.

Tory MPs initiated a move aimed at deterring the Treasury from imposing taxes of up to 20 per cent on the lottery, which is expected to raise £1.5 billion in its first year. MPs from all main parties called for a minimum of 35 per cent to be set aside for sport, the arts, charities, heritage projects and the millennium fund.

The heritage department and Treasury are believed to be discussing a taxation level of about 15 per cent. The Treasury insists that it has

already moved a long way from the 37.5 per cent levied on pools companies. Government research suggests that about half the lottery income must be set aside for prize-money and 8 per cent is likely to be taken up in administrative costs.

The calls for protection of more than a third of lottery money were the nearest that MPs could come to pressing for single-figure taxation, as a bill cannot specify tax levels. MPs are alarmed that a large Treasury share of the income will reduce to a fifth the proportion left for schemes the lottery is designed to support.

Yesterday's cross-party pressure in the Commons standing committee considering the bill will strengthen the hand of Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, in his discussions with the Treasury.

MPs say that public perception that the Treasury is taking too large a slice will deter people from buying tickets. Although the amendment calling for 35 per cent to be set as a minimum was withdrawn, MPs were confident last night that their message would be heeded by the Chancellor. Richard Tracey, the former Tory sports minister who proposed the amendment, said: "It is important that we don't strangle the lottery at birth."

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP, said that the lottery would be seen as a "cloak and dagger exercise of raising money for the Exchequer" if less than a third of resources were set aside. Tom Pendry, a Labour heritage spokesman, said that anything less than 35 per cent would be "an indefensible outrage".

Rare find of tropical seabird

BY IAN MURRAY

ORNITHOLOGISTS were excited yesterday by the discovery of a dead red-billed tropicbird washed up on the Suffolk coast. The graceful white seabird, which has a 2ft



Washed up: the dead tropicbird

tail, breeds on tropical islands and has only once been recorded so far north.

"I am stunned, to be honest," Chris Harbord of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said after the find at Landguard Point, near Felixstowe. "This is a very exciting record indeed."

The bird's body has been sent to Ipswich Museum, where its stomach contents will be examined to try to determine its movements.

The birds' nearest breeding ground is the Cape Verde Islands, off West Africa, from which they occasionally stray north as far as the Azores and the Canaries. There are colonies in the Indian Ocean and Caribbean.

The only other recording so far north was a bird on the Dutch coast in 1985.

Mackay to face court on transcript tenders

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is to face accusations in the High Court of unlawful and unfair practices over tendering of contracts for court transcript services.

A judge yesterday gave the go-ahead for the unprecedented test case over the legality of the way Lord Mackay's department handled the tendering for contracts to cover crown courts from April. The case, to be heard next month, will be the first time that Lord Mackay, head of the judiciary and responsible for the courts system, has been taken to court. In 1986 Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, then Lord Chancellor, was taken to court by the legal profession over the level of legal aid fees.

Yesterday's case stems from the anger of several long-established firms over the loss of contracts to cover proceedings at the High Court, appeal courts and crown courts throughout the country and the way the tendering was carried out. One of the firms, Hibbit & Sanders, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, lost transcript contracts for a group of crown courts including Chelmsford, Southend, Ipswich, Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds, Norwich, St Albans and Luton.

David Pannick QC, for the firm, told Mr Justice Brooke that Hibbit & Sanders was one of the oldest firms of shorthand writers in the country and had provided services since 1907 at the Chelmsford group of courts. "Their complaint is that the Lord Chancellor has acted in an unfair

and unreasonable manner in his conduct of the competitive tendering exercise for allocation of the contract for three years commencing April 1 this year," he said.

"We say the application itself raises issues of general interest. The allocation of the contract at Chelmsford is one example of many similar complaints throughout the country. If we are right, the action of the Lord Chancellor would be unlawful."

Mr Pannick said the Lord Chancellor had given some firms competing for the tenders the opportunity to lower prices to win the contract, but this had not been extended to Hibbit & Sanders. The judge said it appeared it was an appropriate case to grant leave for judicial review. The Lord Chancellor's department said it had no comment to make beyond confirming that the case had gone to judicial review.



Lord Mackay: first court challenge

Tour firm head made death pact

An entrepreneur killed himself in a suicide pact with his wife after a string of financial failures, an inquest was told yesterday. The most recent disaster for Bruce Peters, 56, had been the collapse of a tour company he ran with Sir Fred Pontin, offering trips to EuroDisney near Paris.

Mr Peters, of Linton, Cambridgeshire, gassed himself, his wife, Priscilla, and their dog in their car at Hadstock airfield in Essex. They were found by a passer-by.

Malcolm Weir, coroner at Waltham Abbey, Essex, was told that Mr Peters had been depressed for about four years and that the collapse of the tour company, with debts of £1.5 million, had been the last straw. Mr Weir recorded verdicts of suicide.

Sprinter's brother freed

The brother of the Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie was cleared by Knightsbridge Crown Court, central London, of burglary and theft. After five months in prison on remand, he claimed that he had been victimised "because I have got a black, rich brother".

Russell Christie, 30, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, was accused of burgling a neighbour's flat and stealing camera equipment and a mobile telephone. He said that he had walked into the house and taken the goods because he was owed money.

Advert appeal

The mental health charity Mencap has urged people to complain to the Advertising Standards Authority over a billboard advertisement for BBC Radio 4 which reads: "If your IQ is lower than our frequency then we're not 4 you. Radio 4 — 93.5FM." The BBC has apologised to Mencap, but the charity wants an official reprimand.

Nurse jailed

A night nurse who "systematically fleeced" an elderly widow of more than £23,000 was jailed for 15 months by Knightsbridge Crown Court, Fania Vazeou, of Acton, west London, forged the signature of Lily Ullmann, 94, of St John's Wood, north London, on a series of stolen cheques.

Train damage

David Whitley, 18, a student of Marston, Oxford, was remanded on bail and banned from trains by Oxford magistrates after being charged with causing £20,000 damage to five carriages.

Mine to reopen

Geowin tin mine near Land's End, Cornwall, which closed three years ago with the loss of 120 jobs, could reopen as a heritage centre this summer after redevelopment by the county council.

Beadle claim

Sean Leivers, 27, of Sneyton, Nottingham, was bound over to keep the peace after trying to tug off the beard of a policeman whom he accused of being the television presenter Jeremy Beadle.

Attack charge

Scott Smith, 21, of Auchinleck, Strathclyde, was remanded in custody by Ayr Sheriff Court, charged with the attempted murder of PC John Jobson on Wednesday.

Station ban

British Rail has banned late-night train spotters from Rugby railway station, Warwickshire, after a spate of thefts and vandalism.

Cat legacy

Katrina Dealey, of Cowley, Oxford, who died in November aged 39, has left nearly £135,000 to the RSPCA to be spent on her two cats.

French left wing orphaned by its own despairing leaders



Jaurès: loan was the final straw

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

BY proclaiming the death of his own Socialist Party a month before parliamentary elections, Michel Rocard has tried to clear the way for another of those phoenix-like rebirths that the French left has managed since the early days of the century.

The question this time is whether anything can be saved from a cathedral that has been deserted by its congregation and has demolished itself. M Rocard was only starting out loud what figures in the Mitterrand administration have been conceding privately: the party that Mitterrand revived in 1971 and turned into France's biggest political movement, is

now effectively dead. "The Parti Socialiste was buried on a misty evening on 17 February at Montlouis-sur-Loire in the outer suburbs of Tours," *Le Monde* said.

In the five years since their last election, the Socialists have managed to squander the good will they enjoyed from the people of the left as the party called its natural constituency of workers, small wage-earners, civil servants and members of the intellectual professions.

Most resented by the party's long-time supporters has not been its abandonment of its ideology so much as the way it has let itself be seduced by the luxuries of power. Twelve years of Socialist rule, tempered only by a two-year interlude under a conservative parliament, have left

France with a gilded socialist elite out of touch with the hardships of unemployment and recession.

The intellectual class that for most of this century had felt a natural affinity with the left, now finds itself orphaned without a cause other than campaigning for Bosnia and attacking the socialist hand that so generously fed it. Paris has been flocking over the past week to the latest of these attacks, *The Tree, the Mayor and the Mediatheque*, a scathing comedy about an out-of-touch Socialist mayor, directed by Eric Rohmer.

Many critics see the perfect metaphor for the corrupted ideals of the party in the pharaonic monuments, such as the Bastille Opera and the Louvre pyramid, which the Socialists have erected

around Paris. Worse for some have been the billions of francs spent on the "glorification of vulgarity" in the name of popular culture.

The final straw has been the revelation that Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister and the socialist grandee with the spotless reputation, had accepted a big loan in shady circumstances from an insider trader. "The Socialists had at least one sincere ambition, to put money and power in their place. But we now ask ourselves whether it is not the reverse that has happened," *Libération* said.

Until the collapse of Marxism and the discrediting of left-wing ideology, socialism had enjoyed a special respectability in French political and intellectual life ever since the founding of the first party by

Jean Jaurès in 1905. It had emerged as a social-democratic party after the split with communism under Léon Blum in 1920 and it governed as the Popular Front in the mid-1930s.

It was reborn after the second world war under Guy Mollet and was the main party of government in the troubled Fourth Republic, from 1944 to 1951 and from 1956 to 1958, when Charles de Gaulle took over. The upheaval of May 1968, a quarter of a century ago, gave a new lease of life to left-wing ideas and enabled Mitterrand, a convert from the centre-right, to rally various factions as *le Parti Socialiste*.

The PS took as its symbol the rose clenched in a fist, a logo copied by the European movement. France then had

three forces: a hard Communist Party, the utopian, semi-Marxist Socialist Party and a right wing that drew on the traditions of de Gaulle and the bureaucratic state.

Mitterrand and his party coasted to power on a tide of optimism in 1981, at a time when left-wing parties were discredited abroad and America, Britain and Germany had come under conservative government. Mitterrand's first move was to kill the Communist Party as a force by incorporating it in his government.

The first Socialist administration reversed course after a year and committed itself to a rigorous economic policy that has worked well, but led to high unemployment and social malaise. From that moment onwards, the rhetoric of

the party leaders and militants was out of step with the reality of its social democratic behaviour and gradually Mitterrand himself has abandoned his party to its own devices.

M Rocard, who himself hailed from a more moderate branch of the socialist family, now wants to rescue the healthier remnants of the party and rally a grand coalition of "social-minded" politicians from the centre, including the ecologists who have turned into the darlings of this year's campaign. The strategy has become conventional wisdom among the chattering classes, but nobody expected one of the party's own leaders to stage the break before the catharsis of the expected rout in next month's election.

Rocard calls on Socialists to make way for new force

■ With an eye on the presidency, Michel Rocard is calling for a realignment of the left. Rival parties seem not to be impressed

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

THE French Socialist Party, braced for a rout in next month's elections, was reeling yesterday from a new body blow: a call from Michel Rocard, a senior figure, for it to disband and make way for a new political force.

In a speech that he depicted as a turning point in French political history, M Rocard, a former prime minister and the anointed Socialist candidate for the next presidential election, said the party created by François Mitterrand in 1971 had been left behind by history and had destroyed itself.

"With the same courage as our predecessors, I invite you to break with the past, to accomplish a rebirth," he said. As Laurent Fabius, the party leader looked on with a pained expression, M Rocard called for a "big bang" that would open the way to building a movement encompassing centrists, ecologists and reformers from the left, including the Communist Party.

M Rocard's speech, in a suburb of Tours, was greeted in the media as the death sentence for the government party as it struggles to gain more than 20 per cent of the vote. In an attempt to shore up the party's fortunes, Mitterrand was appearing for 45 minutes on television last night and will do so again tonight in a question-and-answer session.

The latest poll indicated that 433 of mainland France's 585 seats would go to the right-wing alliance, with the Socialists winning only 80. *Libération*, the left-wing newspaper which became a national force with the Socialist rise to power in 1981, said M Rocard's words amounted

to a "funeral speech". M Fabius, whose own tribulations in the HIV blood scandal have contributed to the Socialists' misfortunes, said it was not up to M Rocard to decide the party's future. "I do not confuse the necessary renovation with a collective harakiri," he said.

M Rocard's overture produced little enthusiasm from the objects of his courtship. "It is not our intention to participate in a renewal of the Socialist Party or of the left," Antoine Waechter, head of the Greens, one of the two main ecology movements that are doing well in the polls, said. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, leader of the centre-right UDF, mocked as absurd the idea of a party that would include its supporters and former communists.

Socialist officials accused M Rocard of abandoning the party for selfish motives. An old rival of Mitterrand and hailing from the moderate wing of the party, M Rocard had already distanced himself from the parliamentary campaign in preparation for presenting himself in the presidential elections due by May 1993. Other potential candidates from the left, notably Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, and Bernard Kouchner, the health and humanitarian action minister, have begun campaigning for the centre-left. M Rocard was in danger of being left behind.

Last night, Dr Kouchner and M Delors welcomed M Rocard's speech. Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, said he agreed with his analysis, but urged him to try to solve them from within.



Body blow: Laurent Fabius, left, and Michel Rocard in Tours yesterday after M Rocard's call for the dissolution of the French Socialist Party

Magistrates arrest Craxi's secretary

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

MAGISTRATES investigating political corruption have warned Gianni De Michelis, once deputy leader of the Socialist party, that he is under investigation for alleged misuse of foreign aid, and have arrested the personal secretary of Bettino Craxi, who was Socialist party secretary until a week ago.

The arrest on Wednesday of Vincenzo Tomaselli, Signor Craxi's secretary for the past 30 years, came as a further affront to the former Italian prime minister. Signora Tomaselli has been charged with complicity in corruption after a close Craxi associate, the architect Silvano Larini, told magistrates he had personally delivered bribes worth up to 64 million to Signor Craxi's luxurious Milan office.

Signor Craxi, who received his seventh official notification that he was under investigation, denounced what he said were the "unfounded and

arbitrary accusations" against him and said Milan magistrates had repeatedly broken the law in their enquiry. Signor De Michelis, who has already been investigated, was served two further notices that he was the subject of an enquiry, this time for the alleged misuse of Third World development aid when he was foreign minister.

Several businessmen have told magistrates that they were obliged to pay illegal kickbacks to political parties in order to tender for development projects financed by the foreign ministry. Magistrates are looking in particular at aid projects to Somalia, Bangladesh and Albania.

The embattled four-party coalition of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, yesterday appeared prepared to struggle on alone after opposition parties refused overtures from the Christian Democrats to join an expanded coalition.

Yeltsin angles for a truce in struggle with Khasbulatov

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has called for a truce in his power struggle with Russian Khasbulatov, the Russian parliamentary speaker, in order to prevent economic reforms running around this year, a close aide said yesterday.

Sergei Shakrai, the deputy prime minister, said that Mr Yeltsin, who agreed to prepare a compromise in the feud between the legislature and executive by the end of the month, would not agree to any redistribution of powers between himself and Mr Khasbulatov but was suggesting a period of "mutual restraint".

Under the plan both parties would agree to refrain from trying to change the balance of power or amending the constitution, allowing the government to pursue reform in a stable climate. Mr Yeltsin wants the agreement to be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies and the Constitutional Court.

"The parliament would stop interfering in the routine activities of the government, while the government would consult parliament on any changes to the government," Mr Shakrai said. "If the president violated the agreement he would face impeachment; if parliament violated it it would be dissolved. He is prepared to put his own future at stake to save the government's reforms."

Mr Shakrai's comments elucidate what Mr Yeltsin thinks he can gain from the compromise, which apparently signals a gain for his parliamentary opponents. He intends to stop parliament meddling in policy-making at the price of ceding to the legislature more control over cabinet changes. The deal is unlikely to work well in practice and could easily end up as a game of lawyers trying to prove that the other side is acting unconstitutionally.

Mr Khasbulatov denied yesterday that he was trying to

topple Mr Yeltsin. "I regard myself as one of the people close to him," he told Finland's *Helsingin Sanomat*. "There is no power struggle between us."

It is unlikely that Mr Yeltsin, whose authority has been weakened by the struggle for control of policy, agrees, especially as his opponent said on Wednesday that Russia was slipping into anti-communist dictatorship.

Armenian advance: Fierce battles raged in Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday after Armenian forces made gains in the north of the disputed Caucasian territory. Armenian fighters captured five villages on Wednesday, giving them control of the main road between Mardakert, the principal town of northern Karabakh, and Azerbaijan. An Azerbaijani spokesman said the Armenians had captured only two villages. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kiev balks at Start 1 approval

Kiev: A dispute between Russia and Ukraine is threatening ratification of the Start I nuclear reduction treaty (Robert Seely writes).

Kiev's negotiators said yesterday that the Kremlin had failed to offer "sufficient assurances" that Russia would refrain from force or the threat of force against Ukraine after it gives up its weapons. "There is no movement in talks and what is being officially presented by Russia is not acceptable," a Kiev negotiator said.

Ukraine, which has 176 multi-warhead SS-19 and SS-24 ballistic missiles, is the only one of the five signatories to Start I that has yet to vote on the treaty. Parliamentary approval by all five — America, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine — is necessary before dismantling work can begin.

Swedes want to attack intruders

Stockholm: After years of fruitless submarine hunts, Sweden's military wants the authority to fire at intruders anywhere in national waters without warning.

The navy has had the right to shoot to kill in bays and archipelagos since 1988. The extension, which government officials indicated will be granted, will push the line to the boundary of the territorial waters, 12 nautical miles off the Swedish coast. (AP)

Aids charge

Paris: A woman in Metz faces charges that she knowingly infected her boyfriend with the Aids virus by failing to tell him she was HIV-positive. Lawyers said the prosecution would have to prove she meant to kill him. (Reuters)

Release refused

The Hague: A Dutch district court refused to free a wartime collaborator from prison pending the outcome of his request for a royal pardon. Jacob Luijckens, 73, handed over Jews and resistance workers to the Nazis. (AP)

Risky thefts

Budapest: Thefts of batteries used to power warning signals at railway crossings have doubled in Hungary after one much publicised case last week that caused 12 deaths when a train hit a packed school bus. (Reuters)

Miners strike

Warsaw: Polish coalminers began a one-day strike to put pressure on parliament not to adopt proposals that would lead to their paying higher taxes. A union spokesman claimed 28 pits had stopped work in Silesia. (Reuters)

Trains collide

Vienna: A driver and two guards were killed and 20 people injured when a goods train collided with a passenger express near a suburban Vienna station. It was the second railway accident in Austria in five days. (AP)

Nuclear scare

Sofia: Bulgaria, fearing oil spills from saction-busting Yugoslav ships on the Danube might cause a fire, has tightened security around its Kozloduy nuclear power plant on the river banks. (Reuters)

New embassies

London: The Foreign Office announced that it will open three new embassies in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe. They will be in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, Tashkent in Uzbekistan, and Bratislava in Slovakia.

Rostock struggles to shake off racist image

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ROSTOCK

BLACKENED woodwork has been repainted, firebombed flats refurbished, the muddy wasteland in front of the high-rise block long since cleared of the debris left by the rioting neo-Nazis. But Rostock is still trying to heal the wounds of last year's race riots that almost brought down the local government and left this bankrupt port in former East Germany with an ugly reputation for skinhead violence and police tolerance of racism.

Today the government of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania swears in its third interior minister within a year, this time a western import from Rheinland-Palatinate who, the ruling Christian Democrats hope, will bring calm, conciliation and much needed political experience to Germany's poorest new state. He takes over as not only Rostock but also all Germany is making a huge effort to stamp out extremism, make foreigners welcome and repair the image of a united country seared by the firebombs of a tiny minority.

Most of the Vietnamese have now gone from the hotel that was besieged for five days in the working-class district of Lichtenberg. Posters have gone up all over the city saying "Foreigners are welcome here". Local people have gone out of their way to reassure students from the Third

World that nobody intends them any harm.

Since last August, however, most foreigners — not only asylum seekers — in Rostock have been wary. "I don't go out much at night now, and then only with a group of friends," said Hussam, a Palestinian physiotherapy student. "I bought a cheap Trabant so that I don't have to go on the trams and buses and worry about people looking at me."

Immediately after the riots he and many Third World students were evacuated briefly until passions cooled. "He sought asylum with me in Schwerin," joked Ammar, a fellow Palestinian completing his studies as a dental technician in the state capital, 40 miles away.

Both arrived in what was then East Germany during its final communist days in 1989 before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Despite the extraordinary material changes and the avalanche of goods into the shops, the atmosphere for them was better in the old days.

They felt safe, ideologically welcome and, furnished with dollars, relatively rich. "There's more crime now: all Germans freely admit that. And everything now is determined by money," Ammar said.

They and other Palestin-

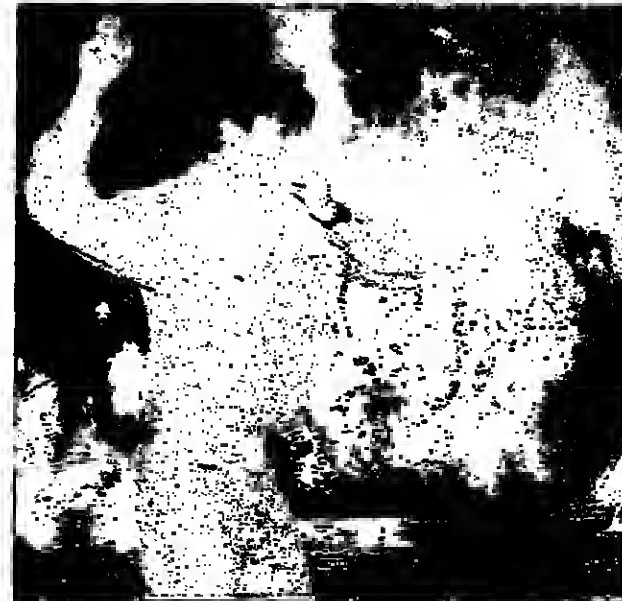
ians, mostly from Syria, are quick to recognise that some of the resentment is understandable. Students from "progressive" countries were officially favoured by the communists. Any complaint against them was brushed away by police, scandals were hushed up, and they enjoyed privileges, such as travel abroad, denied to German students.

Black market trading was rife. Some Libyans became notorious for using foreign currency to bribe teachers, win over local girls and even, to the fury of local people, to employ German women to tidy their student rooms for them.

"People are still talking about that now," Ammar said. "Unfortunately it's we who suffer for those things."

All the students brought in by the East German government had their grants and training continued after unification. Money does not stretch so far now: travel, food and daily necessities are much more expensive. The atmosphere, however, is more equal, and friendships more genuine despite the new anxieties over racism.

Berndt Seife, the prime minister of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, rejected any suggestion of deep-seated hostility to foreigners in his state. "You have to look at where we came from. We have only just emerged from 40 years of



Inflamed passions: the scene in Rostock in August when rioting neo-Nazis attacked immigrants

communist dictatorship, and before them the Nazis," he said. "That moulded three generations. Now we are in a psychologically unstable situation, and in all walks of life people feel overburdened." He added: "Not only a system has changed; a whole country has disappeared."

He said what the west Germans had been able to achieve in 40 years since the Nazis had to be accomplished in the east in two. The psychological shift to democracy was a huge challenge and with it

came problems that had been submerged before, especially a readiness to use force.

He said the Rostock riots had made clear to everyone in east and west how difficult the changes were. "It was a beating shock for the Germans. We now realise, after only two years, that democracy has to be defended."

□ **Filibuster:** Two Algerian asylum seekers were injured, one seriously, when they were beaten and stabbed yesterday by two men on a motor cycle. (AFP)

Bonn absorbs debt to sell off railways

BY MICHAEL BINYON

GERMANY'S railways, Western Europe's largest and the world's most debt-ridden rail system, are to be privatised by next year with debts of DM70 billion (£30.5 billion) written off by the government.

The new private railway, to be known as Deutsche Bahn, will finally bring together the still separate state systems of former East and West Germany. The decision, agreed by the cabinet on Wednesday, will lead to one of the largest and most expensive privatisation schemes ever attempted by a Western government. Unlike Britain, Germany is not proposing to split up the railway into individual leased lines, and the state will continue its large subsidies. Hundreds of miles of railway track may soon be axed from a system which has never suffered the radical cuts that Britain's did in the Beeching era in the 1960s.

The plans, entailing a change in the constitution, will have to be approved by the opposition Social Democrats, and they have already said they will not accept threats to loss-making lines. The central administration of the two nationalised systems, based in Frankfurt, welcomed the proposed changes.

Günter Krause, the trans-

port minister, said the shares would remain in the hands of the government until 2002, when it would decide whether to retain ownership. By then privatisation would have saved DM100 billion, as investment decisions would be freed from bureaucratic control and employees would no longer enjoy the status of public employees, with attendant benefits and jobs for life.

One authority will administer railway property, utilise its land and be responsible for rail employees. A second authority will approve services and decide which trains will run on which lines. All services will be open to private competition, though how this will be administered is unclear.

The railways in eastern Germany will continue to need large capital investment, with the extension of the inter-city network to the east, further electrification and the repair of antiquated stations and track. Wiping clean the financial slate, Herr Krause said, would give the railways the chance to win more traffic while bringing back "financial reality". However, his plan to use receipts from autobahn charges to pay for the rail reorganisation has run into the furious opposition of German motorists, who complain that car users should not have to subsidise the railways.

Aid workers vie with troops for control of relief operation

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was in turmoil yesterday only hours after Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, suspended most aid deliveries in the country.

More than 150 lorries were left on the roads, their drivers unsure whether to continue. General Philippe Morillon, the UN military chief for Bosnia, criticised the decision and indirectly raised the question of who was in command.

"Without humanitarian aid, no one will survive in Sarajevo. Let us hope reason will prevail," he said.

The troops of the UN protection force are only in Bosnia to assist the UNHCR in distributing aid so confusion arose when UN officials said that convoys with their drivers, rather than UNHCR drivers, would continue to roll. The confusion followed Mrs Ogata's announcement on Wednesday that because all three sides were using aid convoys as a political weapon most of them would be suspended. She added, however, that "we will continue to operate where we can".

If Mrs Ogata's will prevails and the suspension lasts more than a few days, the turmoil will deepen as it will mean that the 8,000 UN troops in Bosnia will be made redundant. Only a change in their mandate could then give them a new role. Senior officials indicated yesterday that this — effectively a takeover bid — was exactly what they were hoping for. General Morillon underlined the problem yesterday when he said: "If we cease humanitarian aid to Sarajevo, we have to evacuate the city. That's the only solution."

The confusion has served to publicise the long simmering tensions between UNHCR and UN protection forces, whose mandate is to assist and escort the convoys of the refugee agency. Senior officials predicted that the muddle brought on by Mrs Ogata's decision would lead to UNHCR's role being severely curtailed, with the protection force taking over the aid operation.

The troops are keen to take over the whole operation because there are too many of them with too little to do. Since the Bosnian Serbs have prevented a Canadian battalion taking up position in northern Bosnia, some of these troops could be usefully employed getting aid through without what the soldiers regarded as the unwelcome civilian interference of UNHCR convoy leaders. If the officials have their way, the UNHCR will be reduced to gathering aid around the world and bringing it to central points from where the UN peacekeepers would take over distribution.

Bosnian government, have reacted with horror to Mrs Ogata's announcement, the effect of her action will be far less drastic than many imagine. UN aid to Sarajevo was already suspended a week ago because of the decision by the local authorities not to distribute aid in the city in order to publicise the plight of Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. The town of Tuzla has followed suit. UNHCR officials say that in view of this there is little point in having staff standing idle in areas where they are prevented from operating.

□ Moscow: The Russian parliament yesterday called on the UN to reverse its policy on the former Yugoslavia (Anne McElvoy writes). It demanded that sanctions against Croatia be added to those imposed on Serbia or that all sanctions be lifted against Belgrade.

UN confusion, page 1
Leading article, page 15



Running for cover: a boy dodges Serb bullets in a Sarajevo suburb. President Izetbegovic has asked the UN to drop supplies by parachute to isolated areas

Woman in the News

Unassuming don shows her mettle

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AFTER years in academe, Sadako Ogata retains a quiet professional air that belies her fiery determination.

A diplomat's daughter who spent part of her childhood in Britain and has postgraduate degrees from two American universities, Mrs Ogata, 64, a mother of two, has always enjoyed what she calls "the lucky role of pioneer". She was named in 1976 as Japan's first woman ambassador to the United Nations in New York. She served as Japan's representative on the UN Human Rights Commission and was the commission's special envoy in dealing with the hardline military government in Burma.

She also resumed her long academic career, acting as dean of foreign studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. Then, when the US blocked the appointment of an Indian as UN High Commissioner for Refugees amid charges of racism in December 1990, she became the first woman head of the 625 million-a-year UNHCR.

Moving to Geneva, Mrs Ogata left behind in Japan her son, a producer of avant-garde videos; a banker daughter; her husband, Shinjuro, a vice-president of the Japan Development Bank; and her Shetland sheepdog, Christopher. Since assuming office, she has faced one crisis after another, from the exodus of the Kurds after the Gulf war to the enormous displacement of people in the former Yugoslavia. In her first year, she visited 33 countries, her diminutive figure looking quite out of place clad in a flak-jacket in Sarajevo.

Until she announced the suspension of aid to Bosnia on Wednesday — without consulting either senior UN officials or the security council — Mrs Ogata consistently won plaudits from diplomats and colleagues. Unlike the other Japanese head of a UN agency, Hiroshi Nakajima, who recently won a bitter re-election campaign at the World Health Organisation, Mrs Ogata is perceived as an effective leader.

UN to pay for troops

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations is to start paying for the work of peacekeeping troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The move will save British taxpayers millions of pounds.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, had insisted at the London peace conference on the former Yugoslavia last year that European countries must pay if they wanted the UN to expand its peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. In a report, he said he now accepted that that was a bad idea.

Dr Boutros Ghali was stung by criticism from those developing countries he thought he

was helping, which feared that industrialised powers might refuse to fund peacekeeping in the Third World. He also found that the UN was unable to keep full control over the British, French and Spanish contingents in Bosnia.

He outlined his reasons for his change of mind when the UN Security Council met to renew and revise the mandate of the UN protection force. "This seemed to me at the time an innovative arrangement which would facilitate the early deployment of the additional troops," he wrote, but said that after six months it was clear the arrangement caused operational and administrative difficulties and was no longer appropriate.

Factions play with famine

■ Reports of cannibalism are adding to pressure for UN troops to shoot their way in with aid for starving Bosnians

BY ROGER BOYES

EASTERN Bosnia is producing a picture as dreadful as any war image by Goya. While many discount claims of cannibalism, it is plain that several Muslim communities are close to breaking point.

Aid workers say that many villages — cut off from relief deliveries for ten months — are baking bread from straw and that doctors are without the most basic medicines. Amputations are being carried out without anaesthetic.

These images are at variance, though, with assurances from Western politicians that the mild winter in Bosnia has averted any gross humanitarian disaster. There is some evidence to support this too. Rural communities in eastern Bosnia seem to have struggled through because villagers still have access to oats, bran and goat milk.

Either version of events in eastern Bosnia could be true. Since the region is sealed off so thoroughly by Bosnian Serb militias, rumour replaces hard facts.

The essential fact is that the Bosnian Serbs, unable to conquer certain towns such as Gorazde and Srebrenica by military force, have resorted to a kind of medieval siege. The tactic is to starve out Muslims from an area, along the Drina valley, allocated to them under the Owen-Vance plan.

The Muslims, therefore, had made the feeding of eastern Bosnia their political priority. That is why they have taken the remarkable gamble of refusing to accept UN aid to Sarajevo.

That may well have led some to exaggerate the miseries of their fellows.

The "politicisation" of aid is thus part of the wider struggle for advantage. For the Bosnian Serbs, power is in the hills and on the roads. To block a convoy demonstrates the frailty of the UN and the contempt they feel for the Owen-Vance map. The blend of gangsterism and bureaucracy at the many checkpoints of eastern Bosnia has attained a Kafka-like dimension. Nobody can travel more than a few miles without bumping into a barrier of officious, semi-literate soldiers. Each order, however absurd, has to be taken seriously.

The Bosnians, meanwhile, may be playing a political game of their own. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has built up an exemplary aid network in Bosnia and maintains a high profile. The United Nations Protection Force, especially the French contingent, is much less certain of its role. It is authorised to protect relief by "all necessary means". Should the troops shoot their way through to deliver aid? The utterances of General Philippe Morillon, the French commander of UN troops in Bosnia, suggest that he is not quite sure. The Muslims may thus have decided to exploit these differences and to encourage the use of force.

All sides are trying to use aid as a lever. The besieged communities may be some way yet from cannibalism, but in this bloody Bosnian war it is still dog eat dog.

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How Zlata and Vojin escaped Sarajevo

Tim Morris, right, a London accountant, went to Sarajevo to bring Serbian relatives to Britain. This is his diary of his journey



Family comes first: Dana Morris celebrates with her parents Vojin and Zlata after their rescue from Sarajevo. They are now settling in London

My wife is a Bosnian Serb, born in Sarajevo, which she left some 24 years ago at the age of 19. Her parents, Zlata and Vojin, were still living there when the war started, and although we encouraged them to leave, by that time it was too late. Between July and December last year we received one letter and had an indirect telephone conversation via a journalist. We contacted the United Nations, the International Red Cross and other agencies, in the hope of getting them out, but in vain. I decided to go to Split — maybe further — to see if I could arrange a way out for them. I bought a flask jacket, and filled a case with a few clothes, a sleeping bag, medicines and dehydrated foods, and gathered names of possible helpers in Zagreb, Split and Sarajevo.

Thursday, December 31, 1992: Left Heathrow for Zagreb on Croatian Airlines, with an onward flight to Split. On the flight I met a journalist, Mike, who suggested driving up to Kiseljak together on Saturday, from where it was a short journey into Sarajevo. I needed a UN journalist accreditation card. At Zagreb airport I telephoned a newspaper friend in London for help. I reached Split just short of the New Year. The hotel was jolly with people eating, drinking and dancing and at midnight fireworks erupted and what sounded like gunshots rang out.

Friday, January 1, 1993: The Hotel Split is a luxury hotel with a strange mix of European Community monitors, journalists and refugees. The EC mission produced a splendid map, which showed all the UN/EC/British Army routes, the front line between the Serb and Bosnian/Croat troops and areas of action. I found the British Forces Press Office at the airport, where I eventually got a UN pass and was transformed from an accountant into an accredited journalist.

Saturday, January 2: At the airport, Mike and I hired a four-wheel drive Lada and set off for Kiseljak. The press pass works — as does a large sign saying "TV" on the windscreen. Kids were sledging in the snow. "Sretan Bozic" (Happy Christmas) was written on big banners in Vitez and Kiseljak. We stayed at the media hotel in Kiseljak, some 20 miles from Sarajevo in a Croat-controlled area of Bosnia. It seemed like the centre of the world, with British, American and Irish reporters and satellite communications and television.

Sunday, January 3: I settled down to wait, with some coffee, pivo (beer) and my *Teach Yourself Serbo-Croat*, for the British convoy that was due to go into Sarajevo. I had learnt the language with this book some 15 years ago, but my ability was limited. The convoy was delayed but it was definite for tomorrow. We went out to dinner, through streets of lighted Christmas trees, to Mellon's Bar — packed with young people — Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Tuesday, January 4: We drove, with a British driver, Jack, and his Serbian assistant, Drazen, into Sarajevo, without problems. I was dropped at the television centre and walked the three-quarters of a mile to the in-laws' apartment. My father-in-law Vojin answered the door and was amazed to see me — he looked frail and white. Zlata, my wife's mother, was upstairs, having coffee with neighbours, huddled around the wood stove. My in-laws' apartment is on the seventh floor and as the electricity has been cut, the only way up is to walk. The wood stove upstairs, which they share with two half Serb/half Croat families, is the only place to cook. There is little contact with the Muslim families who also live here. Excitedly they unpacked my tins of sardines and meat, dehydrated mountaineering meals, pasta and dried fruits. They had enough food, but it was all from the UN and limited in variety. Vojin was not well, with heavy bronchitis, asthma and swollen legs.

I spent the afternoon looking for Drazen, who I was sure could help with transport, leaving messages at the television centre, his home and the Holiday Inn. The long walk to the Holiday Inn was up the main road, but I was advised to use the parallel back road, through the passageways marked "Pazi snajperi" — beware of snipers. Everywhere the trees are being cut — the Orthodox Christmas — but it didn't stop the Serb guns. To the Ambasciata Djecija to meet a driver who would take me to Kiseljak to meet Fatima at the government department which is organising a convoy of a car and six buses of ill and handicapped people. I heard plenty of bombs and guns, but did not see any attacks or snipers. The old market was full of shoppers but the sellers had very little — shoes, cigarettes, food from the humanitarian shipments. People were paying crazy prices. I went with Fatima, to the Post Office building, now being used by the UN, to help finalise the convoy with the Bosnian and Serbian Liaison Officers. Both said the convoy was OK, for Sunday and OK for us.

'Pigeon for dinner, trapped by Zlata on her balcony: she is an expert and supplies the three families who share a wood stove for cooking'

down. Men and women use hatchets and saws, pulling away their bounty on sledges and in wheelbarrows. Zlata and Vojin have no heating — it's minus 8-10C outside. We ate, a rice and meat dish. The guns were sporadic during the day, and some quite heavy — maybe a kilometre away. I'm wearing my flask jacket.

Tuesday, January 5: I set off to the Ambasciata Djecija (Childrens Embassy) — perhaps they had a bus of blind children going to Kiseljak — come back tomorrow, I'm told. I try an array of others, the Bosnian Red Cross, Caritas, the Catholic relief organisation, confusion, no petrol, no cars, *nista* (nothing). A man was selling a sack of logs for 300DM (£32). Pigeon for dinner, trapped by Zlata on her balcony: she is an expert and supplies the three families.

Thursday, January 7: Sretan Bozic

side 50. Off to Ambasciata Djecija where I was told that everything was OK for tomorrow. Yesterday evening the Bosnian vice-president was "killed". He had visited a Turkish delegation at the airport and, on his return, the UNPROFOR vehicle was stopped by 40 Serbs and he was killed. A grave was being dug by the Alijaski mosque — he was buried that day at 11.30am.

Monday Jan 11: 7am start for water. I go everywhere, like most people, by foot. People hitch-hike but there are few cars still running — there is no petrol. Went into the Holiday Inn dining room and met several French journalists, who talked of getting to Ilidza, just outside Sarajevo in the Serb area and then out.

Tuesday Jan 12: Up early and at the Holiday Inn by 7.10am. Two French journalists said they would take me to Ilidza. Ilidza is better off than Sarajevo — people are not cutting down the trees, there is some food in the shops. Changed DM10 for "Serbian Republic of Bosnia & Herzegovina" notes (issued since the war) and bought bread, tins and matches to take back. Walked around Ilidza and established that there was a bus to



Fire drill: gathering fuel on the frozen streets of Sarajevo

Pale — is a way out to Belgrade. Back to Sarajevo. Wednesday Jan 13: Walked to PTT/UNPROFOR — saw the Serbian Liaison Officer who said it is easy to get to Ilidza, if you have the transport. Met another Frenchman — please could he help — yes as long as his organisation was not involved and he could go straight to the UN checkpoint — seemed sort of OK. Dobritvor turned up and said there was a convoy to Kiseljak tomorrow which we could join at Ilidza police station. To Ambasciata Djecija — great news, the convoy is going on Friday! Helped carry up Gerber baby tins. Met the Frenchman — yes he was still OK for tomorrow. Great relief, felt there were two arrangements, one for tomorrow and the Ambasciata Djecija for Friday — should I wait for the later comfortable way on Friday? — no, chance of delay. Zlata and Vojin delighted. Zlata produced a full bottle of whisky! It was Serbian New Year — I went to bed at 11pm, but apparently at midnight the sky was full of fireworks and bangs.

Thursday Jan 14: Met the Frenchman and collected Vojin and Zlata and their five cases. Through the Bosnian Checkpoint, through the

UN checkpoint, along the dangerous airport road and to Ilidza and the Serbian checkpoint — we were free! Vojin and Zlata were interrogated/debriefed at the police point. Why, I was asked, are the British newspapers so critical of the Serbs? Another car met us and we quickly drove to Kiseljak. At the bus and taxi station, we agreed a DM500 taxi to Split. We went to get permits to drive to Croatia, but they would not issue them to Serbians. Suddenly we realised the problems of driving to Croatia — Vojin was likely to get dragged out of the car and ... It seems we took the wrong turn at Ilidza — we will have to try to go back and out to Belgrade.

Friday Jan 15: Awoke to the cockerel. Croat taxi driver arrived in Mercedes and we went into Kiseljak then decided to drive the 15km up to the frontier. There happened to be a Dutchman sitting there with his car. He was Eddy, and he was spending his time finding families for Yugoslavs who were living in Holland. He had found 38 and was now going to Sarajevo with a long list of families, looking for their relatives. He offered us a lift back to Ilidza and the police station. The president of

Ilidza told us that we couldn't get to Pale today, we would have to stay at the Hotel Ilidza (free), and there would be transport in the morning. He brought in an interpreter called Snezana (Snow White) — a girl who spoke excellent English. Why to the British newspapers not write well about the Serbs? I asked them what they thought was the solution to Sarajevo — the answer was to be Serb. He drove us to the Hotel Ilidza — an A category hotel, which had been in the centre of the fighting in the summer. Two years ago Dana, the family and I had been there. Now it is broken down, we are the only "guests" — soldiers drifted around. Vojin sang a Chernik song. We're in Serb country, so the Muslims are free criticised — which I don't like.

Saturday Jan 16: A warming cup of rosehip tea. Transport arrived — an army truck. Three hours later we reached Pale. Got the noon bus to Belgrade. We arrived after nine hours — through snowy but sunny Alpine countryside — through three police checks at the Bosnia/Serb border. Had "cevapci, onion, kaymak and salad" for dinner — wonderful. Called Dana and she had a long talk with us all. At least we're out of the war zone.

Monday Jan 18: Up to the British embassy and saw the vice-consul. Had to fill in three applications for each of Vojin and Zlata. Decided to get Belgrade-Budapest — bus at 10pm tonight for the Malev flight to London tomorrow. The British embassy said they needed to interview Vojin and Zlata tomorrow and hopefully would issue visas within a couple of days. I wondered about my leaving, but decided to go. Grabbed a Big Mac and french fries.

Tuesday Jan 19: I am at Serb-Hungarian border — no problem. Arrived Budapest and then back to London. Vojin and Zlata were interviewed, got their visas and arrived London the next day.

MAGAZINE

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Loadsavoices and the old gent of the year

Behind every great comedian stands a great influence. Let's have a big hand for Harry and Edward Enfield

The subject is youth versus crabbled age. For the past two months, a column called *The World According to Enfield Senior* has appeared in *The Oldie* magazine. Enfield senior is Edward Enfield, 63-year-old father of the more famous Harry.

And it was Harry, sweet-faced mimic of many characters — Stavros and Loadsamoney and Nice But Dim — who sent his father's writings to Richard Ingrams, the editor of *The Oldie*. Ingrams at once saw that Enfield Sr encapsulated the Oldie spirit of bewilderment at the modern world and irritation with the young.

"No", Enfield Sr wrote in December, "it will not be nice to have the children home for Christmas. It will be terrible. There will be nowhere to go because every room will be full of young people either watching rubbish on television, or talking rubbish and laughing a lot."

"Their friends have rings in their noses, and sprawl about the place and smoke and use foul language and have skin-head or Afro hairstyles. When they are in the house I have to keep up a pretence of liking such people."

Mr Enfield, trim, meticulous and schoolmasterly, is the retired assistant director of education for West Sussex. He may sound blimpish and crusty but he is delightful company, witty and generally amused. He insisted that since he was bringing his dreadful son to lunch, he should bring a daughter who was, he said, older, at 16, than most of Harry's fans. She had a copy of the magazine *Q*, which featured a portrait of a pouting Harry baring his remarkably hairy chest, about which Enfield Sr made suitable noises of disgust.

The Enfields brought up their family of four in the Sussex village of Billingshurst. ("Sitting down, six to every meal, year after year, is something no one can understand unless they have been through it. If I were to look for a common bond between my children, it is that they all eat like savages.")

Harry, né Henry, was the only son, who says his father was the family humorist, with his imitations of Pony Club mothers, Sue, Lizzy and Lucy, the three Enfield girls, were horse-mad. But while Harry is a master of vocal disguise who can do anyone from effete Wallace Arnold, the Craig Brown creation lately (heard on Radio 4, to Buggerall-money, the vile Georgie lager-lout, Enfield Sr has but one voice. It is pukka old-fashioned BBC English, the voice of one educated at Westminster and Oxford. He was at Oxford with Robin Day, Jeremy Thorpe and Kenneth Tynan: he claims to be "the only undistinguished person" of that era.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



ster and Oxford. He was at Oxford with Robin Day, Jeremy Thorpe and Kenneth Tynan: he claims to be "the only undistinguished person" of that era.

'If I were to look for a common bond between my children, it is that they all eat like savages'

grandson, Edward appeared in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. My father (Sir Ralph Enfield, of the Ministry of Agriculture), appeared in *Who's Who*, and my son in the *TV Times*.

"I", Enfield Sr adds, "am of the generation that slumbers." But his time has now come. At the Oldie of the Year awards last month, Enfield Sr found himself on the top table with Joanna Lumley, Spike Milligan (who asked him, "Are you a dustman?") and Moira Shearer, who invited him to share her taxi. For years the Enfields had to endure the usual teenage behaviour: Harry sneaking out in punk gear, Harry's loud, evil punk music; Harry denying that he smoked, but leaving cigarette ends stubbed out on a ledge outside his bedroom window; Harry going hitch-hiking and neglecting to ring home for a week, so that his mother Deirdre was frantic ("My wife, being Irish, has a

wild, exaggerated pessimism," Mr Enfield says) and mourned him for dead.

Bad language was forbidden at home. Mr Enfield cannot bear to hear obscenities, particularly from a woman's lips. "I tell them it is unbecoming, like bad breath or BO." If only he were film censor, there would be no blasphemy in films — or cruelty or torture or nudity or indecency, "or jokes that do not make me laugh".

He would be the saviour of the British film industry, he says, because all films would be like *Chariots of Fire*. It depresses him to see beautiful, pure Audrey Hepburn films which show how far we have fallen since then. He wishes Emma Thompson, whom he adores, could be like Hepburn; he fears going to *Peter's Friends* in case her language offends.

He has come to the conclusion that private education is largely a ripoff, indulged in by parents who believe — as he did — there is nothing better to spend their money on. But when he asked prospective boarding schools, "What is the merit of sending Harry to your school, rather than to our very good grammar school?", headmasters seemed to regard it as an extraordinary question.

"The Douai School said, 'Boys either sink or swim', and I thought, 'Well, Harry will sink.' Worth Abbey said there was much to be said for boys getting away from home at that age. So he went there. But it was a mistake. He hated it." After two years with the monks, Harry escaped to the local grammar school for the sixth form, demotivated, his voice, turned punk, and went to York University to read politics.

That was where he got up a revue that went to the Edinburgh Festival: Enfield Sr was suitably impressed by this, but still hoped his son would do anything but go on the stage. Harry muttered about "getting something together", and the next thing they knew, he said he was topping the bill that night. "I said, 'You mean there's a bill somewhere, and you're top of it?'" For a time, the parents would listen loyally to *Week Ending* and *The News Huddlines*, on Radio 4, while the hundreds of names were recited off in the credits at the end.

His jokes were dire, Harry says, but then the programmes were dire. Harry does not like jokes and does not wish to hear the one about the clergyman and the parrot. Enfield Sr: "Harry does not like jokes, have you got that? He only likes character." ("I do know one joke," Harry says. "This hiker walked into a bar. Whoops! It was an iron bar.")

He found that the poor pay up promptly, the nouveau riche never pay until it's £80 and then accuse the milkman of trying to cheat them, "or send the au pair to answer the door, so I became adept at saying, 'Vous nous devez quatre-vingts livres.'"

Enfield Sr took up writing because people kept asking him what he would do with his retirement. He would reply: "I shall cycle through France", and did so — along canal towpaths — alone. "Numquam minus solus quam cum solus," he says. "Never less alone than when alone. I'm never happier. I can take any amount of my own company."

He kept a journal which is turning into a book. It would be nice to do a Peter Mayle and make enough money to buy each daughter a house. Harry managed to get himself a flat and a car in 1986, the year of Loadsamoney and *Saturday Night Live*, but "The world is full of young people who do all the right things," Enfield Sr says, "and they are still out of work."

His daughters are all working, but not as commercially as their brother, with his talent for lucrative voice-overs. Sue works for a charity aiding the handicapped in Burkina Faso, is married to an African and has two children; Lucy is in Edinburgh learning to make films; Lizzy is a reporter for Radio Brighton.

But Harry, who may look 13 but is actually 31, is already getting the teenager versus dad treatment. He has three "common-law stepchildren" to whom he has become father since setting up home in



"The Douai School said, 'Boys either sink or swim', and I thought, 'Well, Harry will sink': the buoyant Harry and Edward Enfield face their public

Prinrose Hill, north London, with Alison Allen, the former wife of his fellow comedian Keith Allen.

The eldest, Sarah, is 13 and therefore (he rolls his eyes heavenward and sighs in imitation of all exasperated teenagers) at the age of sitting sulkiily cross-legged on the floor burning joss-sticks in pursuit of Nirvana. She regards her mother and Harry as "just completely sad. That's her word for us, sad."

So even Harry has reached the Enfield Sr stage of parenthood, where he wonders why children no longer do the things one did as a child. Did he not, as a boy, once make a dolls' house from a cardboard box for his sisters? "It's a sort of arrogance," he says. "What you're really thinking is, if they did the same things I did, they'd turn out just like me — period."

Enfield Sr listens affectionately. In one *Oldie* column he questioned American soaps where the son says, "I love you, dad," and the father replies, "And I love you, son." "Truer to life, he says, would be — Son: 'I love you, dad.' Father: 'How very embarrassing!'"

The Enfields do have a television set (acquired later than most) where they may see Harry wearing a nappy in the Dime commercials, or playing the ghastly aging DJ at the Brit awards. They like some of his characters more than others. "We enjoyed Stavros — but everyone liked Stavros. Loadsamoney was perfectly foul of course. We like the ones you'd expect us to like — we like Nice but Dim; we don't much care for Wayneand Waynesta Slob."

But from March 5 Harry will be presenting *Harry Enfield's Guide to Opera* on Channel 4 — a populist, Classic FM-style introduction to highbrow music for the

complete beginner. For the senior Enfields, who remember Harry giving up the piano after one term, and then "taking up the banjo, or whatever it's called, the guitar", this is just another of life's little ironies.

"They say old men always think that things were better when they were young. This does not mean that old men

are wrong, only that nobody takes any notice of them."

At another *Oldie* luncheon, Enfield Sr discovered that both Mr Ingrams and Paul Foot were at his old Oxford college, Univ. And that Mr Foot is a sort of Enfield relation. "He co-habits with my niece," he says. "There are a lot of common-laws in our family."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Richard Ogden

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OPENING IN OXFORD SOON

Janet Daley



■ Britain's cult of secretive meddlesomeness is the revenge of the administrative classes

The British have a celebrated love of secrets. And as much as secrets, they love rules. Indeed, peering through rules are treated with almost as much reverence as those which protect life and limb. What becomes apparent is that it is not the consequences of breaking any particular rule which evoke unease: it is the idea of rules being broken at all. Combine these two perverse tastes in any permutation—rules which encourage secrecy, rules which are so whimsical that they become inscrutable by default—and it is very heaven. This is not a practical philosophy—in fact its repercussions are often hugely impractical. It is a cultural neurosis, a collective anxiety in which the order of the universe is constantly under threat from anarchic forces which must be hemmed in at every pass.

There is, at the moment, a peculiarly ungovernable force abroad which appears in several different guises but which arises from the suspicion that it may be possible to live without this yoke of secrecy and infinite rules replicating rules.

Who really benefits from the culture of obfuscation?

over the small new one? Why, the managerial, officiating administrators of large establishments, who are never forced to revise their comfortable ways of doing things because of a threat from new competitors. The small, affordable changes which some new wrinkle of regulation might require are easily assimilated into the grand old patterns of behaviour: nothing like as threatening as having to cope with a thrusting new presence on the scene who is armed with a lot of dangerous new ideas.

Which brings me to my sweeping historical conclusion. This is certainly an age-old story of class war but it is not, as the simple analysis would have it, the ruling classes against the rest. Never having had a proper bourgeois revolution—the English king having been beheaded a century too early—this country's middle classes never seized legitimate power for themselves. Having guiltily restored their aristocracy, they sentenced themselves forever after to ruling by devious officiousness. Britain's cult of secretive meddlesomeness is really the revenge of the administrative classes: middle ranking officers carving out a dominion for themselves which glories in its capacity to hinder and prevent. If, in the course of spinning your duplicitous procedural web, you may also persuade your superiors that you are performing an invaluable function for them, then you have indeed had the last laugh. Why allow all that to be threatened by letting in too much light on your manipulations?



Man's darkest deeds

If you can punish the evil-doer or cure him of his evil, which will you do?

In the terrible shadow of infanticide we cannot forget a no less terrible war on the old. Is there something in our poisonous air that leads death by the hand to the doors of the two most vulnerable groups of innocents in our society? The Sun has recently been running a feature on the dreadful brutalities inflicted by criminals on, particularly, the old. Again and again, we read of elderly women, some in their seventies or even eighties, who have not only been robbed, but appallingly beaten and injured, though no resistance had been offered, or indeed could have been. And in a substantial number of such hideous crimes, the ultimate bodily violation has been employed.

I pause to think about what that means in our society. I dare say many of you have just paused to ask yourselves the same question. In what fiery hell is forged the ability in a human being to rape an octogenarian, and how can we douse the flames before they consume our entire world?

At the same time, *The Sun* has merged that pattern with another: hand in hand with monstrous attacks on the old, there goes another aspect of violence that shames our society—the rising number of attacks on policemen and policewomen who, it seems, are increasingly attacked quite wantonly, not for instance, in resisting arrest or when caught in criminal activity.

The Sun's artwork has been striking. A zig-zag red stripe runs diagonally across the page with the pictures of the injured, the crimson adorning their faces. The whole feature is a credit not only to *The Sun* but to the press in general, a fact that is coolly ignored by most of those whose only wish is to remove the bosoms on page three.

Of the many villains involved in this round-up by *The Sun*, two stand out. One, Anthony Jeffs, had been convicted of the point-blank murder of a policeman, PC Guthrie, and sentenced to life imprisonment. ("Life" now means an indeterminate stretch, with the Home Office monitoring the progress towards parole.) Jeffs, whose knuckles were tattooed with the well-known acronym, ACAB, had served exactly 20 years when it was agreed by the home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, that he should be released. I shall come to *The Sun's* response to this news in a moment; before that, I should remind my readers who do not remember the details of what happened two decades ago.

Jeffs lay in wait for the then 21-year-old constable Guthrie (married a month) and his senior partner, Sergeant Meredith. Jeffs had stolen a shotgun, and when the two came in sight, Jeffs fired, killing Guthrie outright. Sergeant Meredith, though himself shot, managed to wrest the gun from Jeffs, and was awarded the George Medal.

Twenty years passed, and there was a conviction at the Old Bailey of a man called Anthony Ferrira. Coked high, he lured a woman of 27 (her name has not been revealed) to his room; the excuse he gave was well chosen to ensure that she would be sympathetic and follow him, for he said that his pregnant girlfriend was in gynaecological trouble.

Once he had trapped her, he tried to strangle her with a length of cheese-wire, practised upon her the most degrading and repulsive sexual assaults, stabbed her, slashed her repeatedly with a broken bottle, and finally set her on fire and left her to burn to death. (Neighbours heard her screams and rescued her.)

The case took almost a year to come to court: when it did, the judge sentenced Ferrira to 20 years. Now we come to the point—two points, actually. *The Sun's* and mine.

"Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men," these two cases are, in their different ways, as bad as wickedness can go. The murderer has just completed 20 years imprisonment; the other villain has just started on the same stretch. For Jeffs, the headline was "A life sentence must mean LIFE", and the conclusion was "Lock them up. Throw away the key. Let them rot." For Ferrira, *The Sun* headlined its leading article "Let him rot", adding "It does not matter if they are deprived and have mental problems" and concluding with the puns: "Let's hope some namby-pamby home secretary doesn't let Ferrira out before January 20, 2013."

At such dreadful actions, the civilised man becomes less civilised. The

instinct is to hurt such criminals frightfully, and the instinct is sound. But let me ask my readers a question. If you could, today, either lock up such men to let them rot, or cure them of their wickedness, but not both, which would you do?

Retribution on the one hand; dispassionate science on the other. The choice is not easy; nor should it be. Why should a man who did those things not suffer? Leave on *The Sun's* thirst for condign punishment, and there is an imbalance in the world, which can be evened out only by such punishment. I have never supported capital punishment, and never shall, but there is much more power in the equation: a life for a life. The victims of such crimes must have a say: only a week or two ago, a raped woman publicly forgave her violator, and at almost the same time, the woman who suffered so multifariously said "He could have cancelled my life. I won't ever forgive him." Who shall strike a balance between those two? Certainly not I.

I come back to my question: if you can punish the evil-doer or cure him of his evil, which will you do? When St Joan, her spirit broken, in Shaw's play, agrees that her voices were devils, and signs the *abjuro*, thinking that having bowed to higher authority she can now leave the court and get on with her life, she discovers that she must spend her life in prison, for the terrible sins she has committed in refusing so long to accept authority's verdict. Her judges should not be condemned: penance is required. Of the Moors murderers, it has been said, and difficult to deny (though I do), that even if Myra Hindley had changed entirely in prison, and was genuinely a cleansed soul, she should, like Joan, "eat the bread of sorrow and drink the water of affliction to the end of thy earthly days in perpetual imprisonment."

I believe that Britain has more criminals per head in prison than the case in any nation of Western Europe, but that is not an index to our crime level: it comes from our practice of throwing into jail as many

Bernard Levin

perhaps *The Sun* is wrong. Perhaps the public, however enraged by accounts of such terrible crimes against the person as those with which I started, can hold two ideas in their minds at once: that crime should be punished, and that the sooner we can find out why criminals are as they are, the better it will be for all of us.

Or perhaps I am a namby-pamby, after all. Many, many years ago, when the then home secretary was discussing crime and criminals, he said of the public attitude to such matters that "one of the unflinching tests of the civilisation of any country is an unflinching faith that there is a treasure, if only you can find it, in the heart of every man." Those words were said by the notorious namby-pamby Winston Churchill. Churchill? What can we do with such a man? Lock him up and throw away the key, that's what I say.

criminals as possible. Belatedly, there is a revised Criminal Justice Act which should ensure that a much larger proportion of younger offenders will be dealt with in ways that do not include custody. I ask again: would you wish to give pain to such criminals or find a way to make them give up their crimes?

The criminal mind, if there is so definable a thing, is where we must go exploring—not because we are namby-pamby, but because we cannot expect to find anything substantial that might give a clue by interrogating the victims, however sympathetic we may be.

Much mock has been made, often by me, of the floggers-and-hangers of the Conservative party, who howled for the birch, the cat-o-nine-tails and the noose, and went home disappointed by not getting any of these comforts, let alone all of them. But it was a long time till I spotted something at the conference which I should have long before understood. The conference managers were at pains to shift the law-and-order debate (where the hangers and floggers would have their outing) to a time at which few viewers would be tuned in. That could only mean that most of the country did not share the howlers' longing to detach skins from backs and to stretch necks ominously far, otherwise the prime time of the conference would have been given over to those ladies who demanded the severed testicles of rapists, presumably to wear in their dreadful hats.

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Triumph of the therapists

Ben Macintyre
on America's
latest addiction

By every post, manuals arrive offering to rid me of my slavery to food, alcohol, money, self-starvation, too much sex, too little sex and much, much more. America's obsession with health and self-improvement has a long history, but this is something far more extreme: the widespread assumption that most negative human behaviour can be traced to a socio-psychological hang-up, and then cured.

Racists are now automatically sent on "multicultural awareness courses"; and sexual harassers, once exposed, routinely check in to sex addiction clinics. A British friend was recently stopped for speeding in Florida and found, to his dismay, that he was expected to sit in a circle holding hands with other motoring offenders to discuss their shared compulsion to drive too fast.

The notion that humans are incapable of reforming their behaviour without the correct therapy is called the "Recovery Movement" in America, and has worked its way into almost every level of life. Including politics. Bill Clinton's rhetoric is suffused with "recovery language", the enabling, murmuring and empowering made fashionable by new age self-awareness programmes. He is, moreover, America's first hugging president—another central tenet of the Recovery Movement's tactile philosophy. He will, at the slightest provocation, hug anyone, man, woman, or child. He even embraces Vice-president Al Gore when the mood takes him. To illustrate what a massive leap this represents, just try to imagine President Bush wrapping Dan Quayle in an affectionate, man to man, just-because-I-care bear hug.

The Clintons have, in a way, set themselves up as the nation's therapists-in-chief, as a first couple who will, by example, if possible and action if necessary, give America the courage to face and beat its failings. Hillary Clinton's ban on smoking in the White House, is thus a small pointer to a much wider purpose.

The intrusion of recovery thinking into politics is just the latest stage in the grand American tradition of self-improvement, based on the supposition that we are all ultimately perfectable. This is nonsense, of course, but may make America feel better about itself.

But lurking behind the Recovery Movement is a secondary syndrome which encourages individuals to take less, not more responsibility for their actions. In his book *A Nation of Victims* published last year, Charles Sykes illustrated how America's preoccupation with addiction increasingly allows individuals to blame their actions on psychological and social factors beyond their control.

The recent scandal over Oregon Senator Bob Packwood is a case in point. Senator Packwood has been accused by no less than 23 women (which must be some sort of record) of making unwanted sexual advances; almost his first reaction, after apologising, was to check into an alcohol treatment programme, while maintaining that he was perfectly able to carry on as an elected representative. An inveterate bottom-rotter is a scandal in modern America; but a drunk bottom-pincher, it seems, is a victim of an addiction and therefore less accountable.

A still more revealing example of what can happen when a perfectly commonplace crime is dignified and partially excused by the alleged addiction of the law-breaker is the extraordinary resurrection of Marion Barry, the former Mayor of Washington. After his arrest on drugs charges, one might reasonably have supposed that his political career was over. Not a bit of it. Having checked into an alcohol treatment centre, Mr Barry declared himself healed "in mind, body and soul", was widely praised for having vanquished his addictive problems. Less than three years after his ignominious arrest he was elected a city council member, his rehabilitation complete.

The Mike Tyson trial, now under appeal in Indianapolis, was another example of the victim defence: so far from illustrating Tyson's finer points, the defence painted the former boxing champion as a neanderthal who habitually treated women as expendable sex objects. He couldn't help it, they said, and Desiree Washington should have known that. The defence didn't work, of course, and Tyson is now undergoing the rapy at a high security prison.

Leaving aside the whackier end of the self-improvement fad, such programmes as Alcoholics Anonymous have, of course, helped thousands of people to lead happier lives. But the danger is that America has become so hooked on therapy that the distinction has become impossibly blurred between those who truly recover, and those who use the emotive and extenuating language of addiction and recovery as an excuse for whatever actions they chose to take. Messrs Packwood and Barry might not have considered checking into their respective clinics if they had not been caught. And if I sound ungrateful, think twice before blaming me—I'm being treated for it.

Across the board

EXCUSES There have been in abundance since Gary Kasparov, world chess champion, emerged undefeated from the charity challenge held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand in London, which was jointly sponsored by *The Times*.

Leading those lamenting what might have been is Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who blamed his defeat on being called away at a crucial moment on Wednesday night to vote on the third reading of the Trade Union Reform Bill. Until then, says Dalyell, who was playing for Simpson's, things had been going pretty well. "I had been playing defensively and tightly."

But all that changed as the deadline for the Commons vote loomed. "As 6.25 came up I knew that my last move had been a mistake. Rather unwisely I had my knight prancing around," says Dalyell, so enthusiastic a chess player that he marked his 25th wedding anniversary by commissioning a portrait of himself and his wife battling over the board. "When Kasparov came round and saw where I had moved, he just said 'tut-tut'. Then I knew we had made a deadly error."

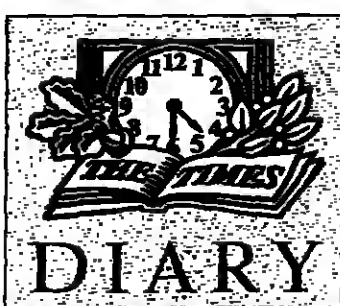
So it proved, with Dalyell's team succumbing to the master in 37 moves, ironically matching the number of votes by which he and his party were later defeated in the Commons vote.

Dalyell was feeling so guilty about deserting his colleagues at such a crucial time that he returned to Simpson's waving an apologetic note from Labour's chief whip, Derek Foster. This made it clear, says Dalyell, that it was "absolutely necessary" for him to attend the Commons vote. "It's the first time in 31 years that I have had to ask for a chief whip's note." Let's hope Nigel Short doesn't need one.

End of the shelf

BAD news for Merchant Ivory, which is indulging in a hefty backslapping session after its bumper crop of Oscar nominations. With only one E.M. Forster novel remaining unfilmed, the agent in charge of the film and television rights for the novelist's work suggests there has been "quite enough Forster."

Merchant Ivory has worked its glossy magic on three of Forster's novels—*A Room with a View*,



Maurice and the much-lauded *Howards End*, which is nominated for nine Oscars. Two others—*A Passage to India* and *Where Angels Fear to Tread*—have been filmed by other companies.

Only *The Longest Journey* remains. This one is about the life of a writer who is born an orphan and lives a short and difficult life. Anthony Jones, Forster's film agent, says it "would make a good film—it's a good story like all the others", but believes there has been "a glut of Forster—three films in very quick succession. I think that's quite enough."

Merchant Ivory, deep in celebrations, seems unconcerned. Paul Bradley, executive producer of *Howards End*, says the company has no plans to film any more Forster novels. But, he adds, "There's always *Aspects of the Novel*..."

■ If Gillian Shepherd found questions about the rise in unemployment particularly hostile yesterday in her interview with Peter Smith, the BBC industrial correspondent for radio, it was hardly surprising. Smith has been made redundant, and clears his desk at the end of March.

Lost in admiration

FREELANCE activities, by tradition, have always been frowned upon by the powers that be at GCHQ in Cheltenham. But the newest form of extra-mural activity embarked on by some of its linguists is meeting with approval. They are teaching English to Russians.

Specifically, GCHQ staff are teaching English to two orphans from St Petersburg who are currently attending Westminster, the girl's public school near Tebury in Gloucestershire.

"When the girls arrived, as part of a trust scheme, they could not speak a word of English," says headmistress Gillian Hylson-Smith. "We've all helped them—it's not just the people from GCHQ—and now they can speak the language and are starting to enjoy it." GCHQ, meanwhile, is letting nothing slip. "Officially we're not aware of any of our staff doing any

such thing," says a spokesman. "However there would be no reason to know about it, if they are doing it of their own accord in their own time." Good to know nothing changes.

Worse than barking

DUTCH parliamentarians are in for a shock. More than 300 pitbull terriers, together with their owners, are to descend on The Hague today in protest at new laws which demand that the dogs be registered, castrated, muzzled, tattooed and kept on a short leash.

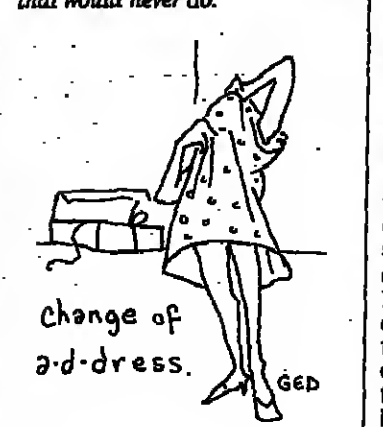
Jan Dirk Van Ginneke, president of the Animal Research Foundation Europe, will present a petition to Dsingsiz Gabor, the Dutch minister of agriculture. The only part of the legislation Van Ginneke is happy with is the registration. "Pitbulls are only as bad as their owners. They don't attack people any more than other dogs."

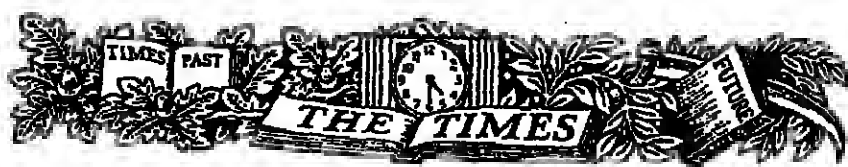
"People shouldn't leave children alone with any dogs. Chihuahuas, for example, actually bite more often. They just don't bite as hard. Pitbulls are very friendly and are very patient. They take a long time to bite."

So can we expect a similar demonstration in Westminster? Amanda Dunckley, secretary of the Endangered Dogs Association which

is campaigning against the Dangerous Dogs Act, says it would be counter-productive. "It would not be useful to our cause. It would only frighten people."

● The recession bites ever harder. Harpers & Queen is launching a frock-swap service for its readers. But not for the traditional second-hand garments one might expect. As befits a society magazine, only haute couture or designer gear will be considered for the new classified advertisement service. Announcing the frock-swap service the magazine says: "The problem with that special couture or designer number is that you'll be noticed wearing it on its second or third outing." And that would never do.





A LEAD FROM THE LORDS

Today MPs should vote for freedom of information

Yesterday, the House of Lords produced a landmark judgment for freedom of speech when it ruled that local councils and government departments should not be allowed to sue for libel. Today Mark Fisher's freedom of information bill, which demands for Britons what is already allowed to citizens of most other developed countries, has its second reading in the House of Commons. The two events are not directly connected, but they could be. If 100 MPs believe their reputation for Friday laziness, this miserable week in the middle of winter 1993 may one day be seen as central to the development of political rights in Britain.

The judgment in the House of Lords followed an attempt by Derbyshire County Council to sue *The Sunday Times* over an article about share deals. The importance of the ruling against allowing the suit is that it enshrines a public interest in freedom of speech which has to be weighed against any arguments for restricting it. This is a commonplace in most democracies and indeed forms part of the European Convention on Human Rights which Britain has signed. But in this country it has not been a positive right in domestic law. British citizens have always had to appeal to Strasbourg to have their right to free speech upheld.

Yesterday's decision by the Law Lords shows a shift in the judicial temper. Legal judgments seem to be moving in the direction of establishing positive rights to freedoms otherwise uncodified in common law. It is encouraging that Lord Keith in his judgment cited overseas cases, such as the famous *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*. But if the judicial mood is to have an effect upon the passing of new law, it is also important that Mark Fisher's bill be given a chance of a committee stage.

The bill proposes the right to information held by government departments, local authorities, nationalised industries and executive agencies. It is controversial and unlikely to pass into law as it stands. If today's hurdle is cleared, ministers are expected to ask Tory MPs, who are not yet being whipped against the bill, to withhold their support later in favour of a government-backed initiative on open government.

That process must be pressed ahead hard. All Mr Fisher's bill requires today is that 100 MPs should be prepared to spend a Friday morning at Westminster to vote for it. That is no great sacrifice. Given that freedom of information is Labour and Liberal Democrat party policy, it would be shameful were the bill to fall for lack of support.

William Waldegrave, the public services minister, claims to have no ideological objections to freedom of information. That at least is an improvement on his predecessors. He may even find a committee stage useful in forcing some of his colleagues to act more closely within the spirit of the citizen's charter.

The government, of course, has practical objections, on grounds of cost, bureaucracy and the effect of openness on advice to ministers. It favours what it calls a "voluntary openness policy". But enough backbenchers from all parties ought to want to seize their opportunity to show scepticism about the reach of voluntary measures. It is precisely when the disclosure of information could be embarrassing to ministers, usually because it exposes their incompetence, that freedom of information is so important.

As Thomas Paine put it two centuries ago, "those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must...undergo the fatigue of supporting it". Surely there must be at least 100 MPs today who agree with him.

CRY OF DESPAIR

Peace in Bosnia must not be made subservient to negotiations

In eastern Bosnia's besieged villages, people are subsisting on bread made partly of straw and doctors are performing amputations with carpenter's saws and without either anaesthetics or antibiotics. For the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to order relief convoys to withdraw in such circumstances must appear inexpressibly callous. Yet Sadako Ogata's decision, born of desperation, is not only defensible; it is perhaps the only way remaining to her to stinging the governments that matter into speeding up the timetable for an adequately enforced peace settlement.

Starvation is outpacing diplomacy in a race that must be stopped. The UNHCR is delivering 20,000 tons of aid a month to Bosnia but the Serbs have prevented both it and the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) from getting a single bandage or bag of flour to these endangered Muslim communities. Sarajevo has boycotted UN relief for the past week to focus the world's eyes on eastern Bosnia. Mrs Ogata has accused Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims of making "a mockery of our efforts". The Bosnian government retorts that Mrs Ogata is blackmailing "the poor and hungry", but it is the poorest in Sarajevo that suffer most from the boycott. It is the well fed, inside and outside Bosnia, she is attempting to blackmail: they must respond.

France wants a new, tougher mandate for Unprofor, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter which allows the use of force. But resolutions 770 and 776 were taken under Chapter VII and already provide for the use of "all measures necessary" to carry out the UN's humanitarian mission. The message Mrs Ogata conveys is that humanitarian aid will not be effective until a Nato-led force is ready to police a military disengagement. Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance continue to believe that this should follow, not precede, a

comprehensive agreement. President Clinton says he will wait for the unfettered assent of all parties. But Lord Owen and Mr Vance came to New York a fortnight ago seeking UN Security Council endorsement for their peace plan; yet only now are they discussing with America and Russia how to involve them in further mediation.

America's decision to become politically and militarily involved is worth some delay, because it enormously increases the prospects for success; but this delay should be measured in days not weeks, and even minor modifications to the constitutional and territorial provisions of the Vance-Owen plan could take months to negotiate. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said as much yesterday and suggested that if all sides stopped fighting, they could talk about maps "when peace is established". Anything Mr Karadzic says must be suspect, but whatever his motives, this proposal should be vigorously explored.

The part of the Vance-Owen plan which provides for disengagement is detailed, practical and could and should be moved up front. This would not be a partial solution. Provided sanctions were maintained on Serbia and, as the Russians seem likely to insist, instituted against Croatia pending a political settlement, neither these negotiations nor the urgent task of preventing the fighting from spreading need be prejudiced or downgraded. Nato should be instructed to plan on that basis. Rapid decisions could be made now that America has won Russian agreement to participate in a Nato-led operation to enforce a peace agreement. Meantime Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin should, with British and French support, deliver an ultimatum under Chapter VII to the combatants: if they can agree on nothing else, they must agree to silence the guns under Nato supervision, and to do so now.

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

The Church of England leadership must now fight the wreckers

Like a couple embroiled in an angry divorce, the Church of England is tearing itself apart over an issue that ought to have been settled three months ago. Those who oppose the ordination of women priests are refusing to acknowledge the concessions that have been made to them. Those who steered this overdue reform through the General Synod last November appear, with a few exceptions, to be reluctant to seize advantage from the intransigent minority.

In most of this week's deliberations, the assembly has displayed a sense of Christian mission and focus that does it credit. Wisely, it has taken a pre-emptive lead in the debate on disestablishment, examining ways in which the method of appointment to senior posts might be reformed. The synod's discussion of the education bill and abortion has also been measured and valuable. Yet the proposals by 100 rebel Anglicans for a third non-territorial province, launched at a childish "alternative" synod on Wednesday, must depress deeply all who wish to see the Church survive and prosper.

The synod's decision to admit women to the priesthood was deftly phrased to accommodate individual conscience and a measure of subsidiarity. Those parishes and bishops that find the prospect of women priests unconscionable will be able to withdraw from the reform, while the Church expects to pay £11 million in compensation, pension and housing provision to every 100

men who resign their orders. Yet the traditionalists, confident that they have exclusive knowledge of God's will, refuse every olive branch. They remain determined to scupper the reform in Parliament and may eventually take their grievance to court, challenging the competence of the synod to change what they regard as a doctrinal foundation of Anglicanism. Their plans for a third province would include a massive transfer of assets and presupposes that rebels will stop paying diocesan dues. Impracticality blends unpleasantly with presumption. It is hard to know whether more damage is being done by the wreckers who talk merrily of "a church within a church", or the Anglo-Catholic faction under Dr Graham Leonard, the former bishop of London, which is encouraging mass defection to Rome.

Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is under renewed pressure to withdraw from the fray in the spirit of evenhandedness. While striving to maintain consensus, he must acknowledge that the conflict has probably moved beyond that stage and that the Church now needs firm leadership to reinforce its courageous and historic decision. Others should follow the noble lead of the conservative bishop of London, who has urged Anglicans to concentrate on the Church's mission rather than its fault-lines. Conscience is the heart of religion; but the cost of conscience should not be the subversion of the faith itself.

Call for UK ban on nuclear tests

From Lord Callaghan and others

Sir, On February 24, the prime minister meets President Clinton. There is one issue on which a fresh approach from Britain would work to the benefit of both countries: that of a comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTBT).

In the February 4 issue of *Nature*, Lord Zuckerman, former chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence, makes an urgent and impassioned plea for the British government to stop testing, as have the United States, France and Russia with their nuclear test moratoria, and work actively for a CTBT. We write to support Lord Zuckerman's call.

We believe this is one of the most pressing foreign policy issues facing Britain. As the Americans, French and Russians have now realised, they have to restrain their own nuclear programmes to have any chance of avoiding global nuclear proliferation. Without a test ban as part of a strong non-proliferation regime, what case do we have for persuading countries on the brink of developing nuclear weapons not to do so?

We believe the recent pro-testing policies of the British government to be seriously out of tune with the traditional British position, which, in effect until 1979 and in theory until 1988, was strongly in favour of achieving a comprehensive test ban. It was then part of an anti-proliferation strategy on the foundation laid by the 1963 partial test-ban treaty, which the Macmillan government did so much to bring about. If a test ban was considered, rightly, to be in our interests during the Cold War, how much more is it in our interests now?

It is not too late for Britain to play again an influential disarmament role, in this and other areas. But if disarmament does not set the agenda now, proliferation very shortly will. By banning nuclear testing, we can take an important step back from the proliferation abyss.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES CALLAGHAN,
HUGH BEACH,
FRANK BLACKBAY,
DENIS HEALEY,
ALASTAIR MACKIE,
CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW,
c/o British American Security Information Council,
8 John Adam Street, WC2,
February 15.

MPs in committee

From Professor Roy Gregory

Sir, "Not even the most enthusiastic supporters of parliamentary select committees", writes John Garrett, MP, "have ever suggested that they might 'control the executive'" (letter, February 13). On the contrary, it was precisely the apparatus of parliamentary "control" over the executive that advocates of an extended select committee system said they wished to strengthen.

This is a field in which arguments of substance have long been bedevilled by the confusion generated by this familiar but highly ambiguous term "control".

Except during a brief period in the 17th century, Parliament has never "controlled" the executive in the sense of issuing directives. No one, I imagine, suggests that it should. The exercise of "control" in the weaker sense of "scrutiny", on the other hand, has always been a major function of Parliament in relation to the executive. It makes perfectly good sense to suggest that "control" of this kind should be reinforced by the work of select committees. All too often, debates about "parliamentary control" lead nowhere because they are conducted at cross purposes.

Yours faithfully,
ROY GREGORY,
Centre for Ombudsman Studies,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire,
February 15.

Threat to Rushdie

From Mrs Joy Heiseler

Sir, You report Dr Kalim Siddiqui (February 15) as saying: "I do not want to kill him [Salman Rushdie]. We will just break every bone in his body." Does not such a threat constitute a criminal offence in Britain, or are prominent Muslims exempt?

Yours faithfully,
JOY HEISELER,
18 Attmore Close,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Travels in Africa

From Emeritus Professor R. Mansell Prothero

Sir, Sir Vivian Fuchs (letter, February 10) is indeed a man of distinction, but to require a lavative when travelling in Africa must make him unique. Lesser mortals need only rely on venal nature. And was the Livingstone Rouser he took named after the missionary-explorer? Poor Livingstone had no need of a lavative; he suffered greatly from dysentery and its debilitating effects contributed significantly to his death.

Yours faithfully,
R. MANSELL PROTHERO,
Vine House, 26 Parkgate Road,
Neston, South Wirral.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Deterrents to the young criminal

From Mrs Jonathan Carr, JP, and others

Sir, As magistrates in inner London attempting to implement the new Criminal Justice Act, we welcome the prime minister's change of priorities on crime and punishment.

In his Carlton Club speech (report, February 4) Mr Major claims that he now wishes to keep persistent young offenders off the streets and to place them in secure accommodation—just what the Criminal Justice Act was designed to avoid. The change is an excellent one: but we believe that his first priority should be the amendment of the act rather than the building of new institutions.

Under the act we are not able (except in very limited circumstances) to take into account the offender's past record. The street mugger who commits 20 attacks has to be given the same sentence as the mugger who commits two. There is no deterrent and we feel deeply frustrated.

The prime minister hoped, too, that rehabilitation could be given to the persistent young offender when in custody, to train him for a useful future. We support this view, and note that both the director of Nacro and the director of the Howard League for Penal Reform ignored this in their letters (February 16).

Crime and fear of crime make our streets unsafe, and the public feel let down. It is a sad day when the judiciary begins to be out of step with public opinion, and the prime minister is obviously realising this.

We hope that the Criminal Justice Act will receive urgent amendment, and that we can once again take into account an offender's record when sentencing. In our view, the test of justice is that it delivers what the citizen wants.

Yours sincerely,
DAPHNE CARR,
SYBIL EYSENCK,
ROY JAMES,
JULIA ROSKILL,
49 Cardigan Street, SE11,
February 16.

From Mr Keith Tallon

Sir, The reference by the director of the Howard League in his letter to "a sharp fall" in the prison population comes as no surprise to advocates practising in the magistrates' courts. The cause is the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and a further serious result of the act must surely follow.

The act makes it almost impossible for a court to take into account an offender's previous convictions because this can be done only if the court is satisfied that the circumstances of a previous offence aggravate the instant

offence. Since the Crown Prosecution Service rarely has an accurate record of the offender's previous convictions, still less any information as to the circumstances of previous offences, the court is usually unable to take them into account at all.

This is that offenders with many previous convictions are dealt with as if they are of previous good character and punished by way of a fine, conditional discharge or probation order.

What these offenders are now realising is that they are free to go out into the community and commit thefts and other offences without any real risk of being sent to prison. They do not regard any other punishment as a deterrent.

As juvenile offenders they were told that they would face more serious punishment in the adult courts, but this is no longer the case. Generations of young offenders are seeing that the courts do not hand out any effective punishment.

It follows that it is likely that the crime rate will rise sharply because there no longer exists any effective deterrent.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH TALLON,
Cook Taylor (solicitors),
3 Thomas Street,
Woolwich, SE18,
February 16.

From Mr G. B. Miller

Sir, Does the director of the Howard League really believe that the juvenile crime rate fell heavily in 1991?

The facts are different. Local bobbies are no longer pulling in and charging youngsters under 14—certainly not youngsters under ten. They are told by the station sergeant not to waste their time, and if they do charge them the CPS on the whole will not accept the case because in most cases the child is told by the magistrates not to do it again and to be a good boy. As a result the statistics about "known offenders" is a load of rubbish.

Worse still, the inability of the police to have retribution visited on these youngsters is building up a positive contempt for the police and law and order.

We are now seeing the beginnings of Fagin's kitchens, with children breaking into houses, taking what they can carry and going off to a waiting car with an adult driver. If the kids get caught no harm is done—they will not be charged.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. MILLER,
68 Adisham Green,
Church Milton, Sittingbourne, Kent,
February 16.

lional or local, since the act took effect.

Your author argues that more open justice has resulted because magistrates are required by the act to give reasons. That may help insiders and even parties but is no help to members of the public in the absence of media coverage. How does an interested lay person discover how the act is being applied? My own experience may be instructive. I presented myself on two occasions at a family proceedings court that was about to hear care proceedings. The magistrates agreed to my presence, provided the parties agreed, but in both cases their lawyers said they refused.

When the act was implemented the Lord Chancellor was reported to have set up a committee to review the issue of access to and reporting of family proceedings. It has not been heard of from that day to this. The Children Act has many virtues. Enhancing open justice before magistrates is not one of them.

Yours faithfully,
TOM WELSH,
(Joint editor, *McNae's Essential Law for Journalists*),
310 Waterloo Gardens, N1.

CrossRail tunnel

From Councillor Gwyneth Deakins

Sir, Not everyone thinks that the London CrossRail tunnel is a good idea (report, "Not under my back yard", February 15). Tower Hamlets Council is very strongly opposed to the project as it stands, for a number of reasons.

Firstly, CrossRail was planned before the decision was made to route the Channel tunnel link via Stratford to King's Cross, so it takes no account of changed patterns of demand.

The plan at the moment is for CrossRail to utilise existing tracks east of Bethnal Green. This means there will be no real increase in capacity on the eastern branch, and many people will have the quality of their lives severely disrupted by additional trains thundering past their homes on elderly viaducts. Work on the tunnel will also destroy the one remaining piece of open space left in Spitalfields.

In fact, the benefits of CrossRail are very limited, probably offering relief only to the Central line. Other schemes, such as the proposed Chelsea-Hackney line and Jubilee line extension, would not only provide relief for the Central line, but have wider benefits for the rest of London.

CrossRail is being allowed to plough on regardless, simply because it is already before Parliament. The government should sit back and look at the changing conditions in London, and carry out a proper strategic review of rail planning in London to

establish what is best for the whole of the capital. We cannot let piecemeal planning go on ruining the lives of thousands of Londoners.

Yours faithfully,
GWYNETH DEAKINS
(Chair, Policy Strategy Committee),
Tower Hamlets Council,
Town Hall, Patriot Square, E2.

From the Project Director of CrossRail

Sir, Sir Michael Clapham, chairman of the Residents' Association of Mayfair, thinks that CrossRail's promoters "pulled a fast one" by taking the parliamentary route for approval to the South-East's new railway report (February 15).

When the secretary of state for transport directed London Underground and British Rail to deposit a private bill for CrossRail in November 1991, the parliamentary process was the only way to gain approval for major rail schemes. Since then a new system involving planning enquiries has been introduced, but this was not available for CrossRail.

Sir Michael is therefore mistaken in thinking that any other planning approvals procedure was available to the promoters, who have at all times observed the rights of affected parties. This has included extensive consultations with the residents' association.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. F. SMITH,
Project Director, CrossRail,
Eastbourne Terrace, W2,
February 17.

Child-stealing and the way we live

From Mr Peter Neufeld

Sir, The terrible murder of James Bulger (leading article, February 18) brings forcibly to mind two major changes in the way we live.

Whatever harm they may observe a youngster to be engaged in, no adult dares to interfere. They know that it is themselves, not the child, whom the law may punish, not to mention any injury the child may inflict on them, for which there is no redress.

Many of us can remember the time when James and his abductors would have been likely to encounter more than one policeman on the beat.

Yours faithfully,
PETER NEUFELD,
21 Little Birches, Sidcup, Kent.

From Mrs Margaret Fowler

Sir, Could not all parents with small children be encouraged to use reins when going on shopping expeditions?

If children become used to reins when taking their first steps they accept the restraint (even if there is the occasional tantrum) and they are both more controllable and infinitely safer.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET FOWLER,
51 Castle Rise,
High Banks, Uckfield, East Sussex,
February 16.

Affordable housing

From Mr Harley Sherlock

Sir, In his letter (February 12) about affordable housing Dr Richard Fordham claims that it is difficult to design attractive layouts at a density of 20 houses per acre. And yet civilised urban living, with all the necessities and pleasures of life close at hand, is almost certainly unsustainable at any lower density.

Those in a position to buy their own homes are prepared to pay a premium to live in inner London's modernised 19th-century streets, which usually provide a much higher density than 20 dwellings. But council-owned properties in such streets often lie derelict for lack of resources.

Worse, in spite of evidence of homelessness all around us, during the last ten years virtually no new inner-city housing has been built in either the private or public sectors.

By all means let us be flexible about densities but let us also set about the more urgent task, in this post-lower block age, of finding the modern equivalent of our high-density Georgian streets and squares. Only then will we be able to think in terms of providing affordable housing for all those who would enjoy city living if it were not for the poor state of their housing.

Yours faithfully,
HARLEY SHERLOCK,
13 Aylway Place, N1,
February 15.

Oxo tower's flavour

From Mr R. J. Clothier

Sir, Is it not enough that the Oxo tower (report, February 13) is a treasured London landmark? What sense does it make for the environment secretary to demand "architectural" interest in recent vernacular architecture? Concerning his other criterion, how may any such architecture acquire "historic" interest if pulled down now?

An earlier government allowed the Old Shot Tower, which figured so prominently in the Festival of Britain, to be destroyed. Amends might now be made. The flavour of a period is all too easily lost.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. CLOTHIER,
18 Somerton House,
Duke's Road, WC1,
February 13.

Our cricket cure

From Mr T. A. Meadowcroft

Sir, On reading your leader today, "Just not cricket", may I suggest the appointment of Brian Clough as the England team manager. Even if they lost every match the team would be clean-shaven and smart in appearance and show no signs of body language when given out.

They would also, I suppose, eat Shredded Wheat, which would be something of an improvement.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. MEADOWCROFT,
9 Rectory Park,
Pett, Hastings, Sussex,
February 17.

From the Reverend Brian Magee

Sir, After reading "Just not cricket", I wanted to dance around the room, wave a burning newspaper (not *The Times*) and set off fire-crackers. You were straight down the line. Well played!

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN MAGEE,
St Patrick's College,
Drumcondra, Dublin 9,
February 18.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

SENIOR CITIZENS

A generation that counts

At the start of the European Year of Older People,

Clare Hogg considers the growing power of the over-50s

This year has been designated the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations. The three main aims of the year are to "raise awareness of the issues of ageing"; to "promote positive images of older people"; and "to promote a closer relationship between generations".

Awareness certainly needs to be raised. Ageing is a process which is changing, mainly for the better. Older people live longer, have healthier lives, are becoming richer, are more independent and active, have better opportunities and greater support, and their "image", the way others react to them, is improving dramatically.

Force of numbers has done much to bring all this about. One in three Europeans are over 50 and this proportion is increasing. Many have more time and money than their predecessors. There is still a long way to go, however. About a third of pensioners are at or below the official poverty line and another quarter struggle to stay 20 per cent above the line, and so are unable to claim benefits.

But the wealth which is concentrated in the top third is spreading down. These people are benefiting from private pension plans. They belong to the first generation to have fewer siblings, so their inheritance prospects are good. Because of this, and the rising levels of home ownership, more have profited from the property boom of the 1980s.

For example, 89 per cent of readers of *Choice* magazine, which aims at this sector of the

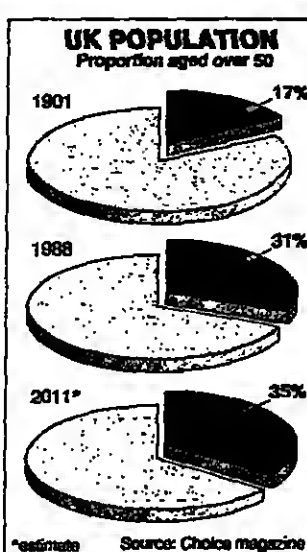


Happily ever after: better health and greater wealth mean that many older people today have more freedom than ever before

"grey" market, own their own homes, and 61 per cent own their homes outright. *Choice*'s readers have an average annual income of £17,500, and, as advertisement director Cathy Torpey points out: "Consider: no children, no mortgage, no school fees, good inheritance prospects. This is a grossly underrated market."

It may be underrated, but this market is not a pushover. Not only do its members have the time to ferret out the best deals, the pre-war generations insist on value for money. They are consumers who are advertising literate and street-wise. And, as one marketer comments: "They hate being marketed to as 'old', or being patronised. They usually identify more with their children than with their parents."

Indeed, older people hate being patronised by anyone. A survey published last month by the European Community showed that "older people do



not want to be referred to as 'the elderly' but favour instead 'older people'. The problem of the negative image of older people is being aggressively tackled by Age Concern,

which last month launched an advertising campaign which aims to stop the use of such derogatory expressions as "old codger" and "stupid old cow".

As the actress Sheila Hancock said, at the launch of the EC Year: "I am not flattered when complimented on looking young for my age. I earned every one of these lines and I'm damned if I'll cover them with make-up." Stereotype casting of older people in everything from soap operas to television commercials is causing growing protest.

It is a voice which is increasingly heard. According to the EC survey, "a significant minority of older people would join an age-specific political party", and, even more interesting, "the general public think that older people do not play full enough roles in either political life or the media".

Many companies, which even in today's bleak economy are short of skilled, reliable

workers, are reassessing their policy regarding employing older workers.

Older people are both able and willing to play a more active role. Physically they are better off than ever before. According to Dr John Fox of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, "there have been very substantial changes in trends in mortality in the course of this century. A man born in 1911 would have had a life expectancy of 50. Baby boys are now expected to live to 73."

Most major infectious and respiratory diseases have been overcome, and even the number of deaths due to heart disease and cancer are dropping. Great advances have been made into research into less serious physical complaints. Older people have less reason to be fobbed off by disinterested GPs with the explanation: "It's your age."

They are likely also to be better prepared to enjoy their extra years. According to Emily Grundy, a reader at the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology at Kings College, more older people than ever will be married with families, and "as yet they have not been affected by the rising divorce rate".

The prognosis is good, and a successful European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations will make it even rosier. Older people are likely to become richer, healthier and happier. They will be more active and more influential. And they will have the luxury of the time to enjoy it all.

© European Year of Older People and Age Concern 081-679 8000

Make your money go the distance

Many people on pensions need to maximise their returns, says

Helen Pridham

Recent interest rate cuts have been bad news for retired people. They have seen their income from building society accounts, bank deposits and National Savings plummet over the past two years. During 1990, gross rates on building society accounts averaged 12.85 per cent, but today savers are lucky if they can get half that.

Although evidence suggests that increasing numbers of older people have some savings when they reach retirement, the amounts are often modest. The NOP, Financial Research Survey found that 80 per cent of people aged over 65 in 1992 had some savings. More than half have a building society account.

But, a recent report on pensioners' assets by the Policy Studies Institute found that only 20 per cent of retired men aged 65-69 have savings of more than £10,000, while 19 per cent have between £3,000 and £10,000. The largest proportion - 33 per cent - have less than £3,000.

Sally Greenberg, the director of Age Concern, says that many older people are becoming increasingly concerned because they feel the savings which they thought would tide them through their retirement are likely to be exhausted sooner than they expected.

Many older people are now trying to find better deals than those offered by building societies. However, Tim Knight, the Bradford & Bingley building society's direct financial planning arm, says: "There is no simple answer. Many retired people will just have to grin and bear a fall in their living standards because they really have no choice but to leave their money in the risk-free environment of the building society."

If they are non-taxpayers, he says, "it is probably best to stay put. Others may want to look further afield for part of their capital but they will have to accept that higher yields are likely to mean taking a risk that their capital could fall in value, at least in the short term."

On a more positive note, however, Mr Knight points out: "Those who can afford to take some risk could reap the rewards in the long run as returns on shares have generally proved better than building society investments over five years or more."

A first step for all retired people should be to make sure that the money they are keeping in a building society is earning the best rate possible. At the moment though it is difficult to compare rates because many societies have still not announced their new rates after the last base rate cut. Particularly worth consider-

A comprehensive guide to the up-to-date rates on all building society accounts, including postal accounts, and other fixed interest investments is contained in a monthly survey carried out by *Moneyfacts* (for a complimentary copy call 0692 500677).

Cash unit trusts are another alternative worth considering for investors who want capital security. Investment in these funds normally starts at £500 or £1,000 and they are at present offering yields of about 6 per cent. They are run by companies such as the Prudential and Fidelity, who pool investors' cash and make £1 million-plus deposits with the big banks which attract high rates of interest.

Most other investments involve some capital risk. Personal Equity Plans can provide a tax-free income, which matches, or in some cases exceeds, building society rates. They normally invest in shares through unit trusts or investment trusts although both M & G and Fidelity have recently launched monthly-income PEPs which include a substantial exposure to fixed interest stocks in order to give greater security. The minimum investment in both is £1,000. M&G's plan offers an estimated gross yield of 5 per cent. At Fidelity the estimated starting yield is 6 per cent.

Many financial advisers are keen to recommend insurance bonds. However, with a few exceptions, such as the Sun Life Distribution Bond, most are designed as a capital investment rather than to provide an income. Taking an income can deplete the capital; and bonds can go down in value.



EUROPEAN YEAR OF OLDER PEOPLE AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS 1993

Britannia and the Cheltenham & Gloucester.

The 7 per cent gross rate paid on National Savings Income Bonds is also looking increasingly attractive with a minimum investment of £2,000. However, this rate may drop after the last base rate cut; withdrawals require three months notice.



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OPINION

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Jerry Portnoy is playing harmonica for Eric Clapton

SPORT 36-40

Where next for England's footballers?

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Pages 28-30

THE TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 1993

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BUSINESS TODAY

HEALTHY



Glaxo, the pharmaceuticals giant, is sitting on a £1.5 billion cash pile after a healthy rise in first-half profits. Page 23

WEALTHY

A sharp drop in banking provisions helped Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, to lift profits by 66 per cent last year. Page 22

WORRIED



The fate of 6,500 DAF truck workers hangs in the balance amid growing pressure on bankers to agree a refinancing. Page 23

THE POUND

US \$ 1.4410 (-0.0025)
German mark 2.3585 (+0.0078)
Exchange index 76.7 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2937.7 (+23.7)
Dow Jones 3324.08 (+11.88)
Nikkei Ave 1592.14 (+27.48)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 8%
3-month Interbank 6-6 1/4%
US Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treas Bill 2.89-2.87%
Long Bond 7.04%

CURRENCIES

New York: London: £\$ 1.4455 £\$ 1.4475
\$DM 1.8355 \$DM 2.3645
\$SWF 1.5200 \$SWF 2.1885
\$FR 5.5325 \$FR 6.0155
\$Yen 119.58 \$Yen 172.77
\$SDR 1.0526 \$ECU 1.2149
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$): AM 329.00 PM 329.95
AM 329.00 PM 329.70-330.10
New York: COMEX 330.25-330.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 137.9 January (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Dow volatile after Clinton speech

Fall in lending undermines recovery hopes

By LINDSAY COOK AND JANET BUSH

GLIMMERS of recovery in the high street were followed yesterday by statistics showing that those sectors crippled by high debt levels throughout the recession remained extremely fragile last month, suggesting a broader-based recovery may be slow to arrive.

Hopes of a revival in the housing market were dashed by another fall in new mortgage commitments, and bank lending to industry and the personal sector remained very weak. At the same time, seasonally adjusted unemployment rose 22,100 to 2,995 million in January and the unadjusted total jumped 78,726 to 3,062 million. There was, however, good news on inflation, with underlying average earnings dipping below 5 per cent in December for the first time since 1967.

The latest evidence suggests there has been little improvement in the economy since the International Monetary Fund survey in December concluded there were few signs, if any, of a recovery, despite sterling's fall and much lower interest rates. Nevertheless, British government officials yesterday took the IMF to task for the bleak view discussed at a closed meeting in Washington last week, saying it was based on old data.

Michael Saunders, chief UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said: "The economy is probably gradually turning but recovery is only evident in those areas like retail sales and exports which are not credit-sensitive. The huge overhang of debt is still proving a real drag in other sectors."

The amount of money pro-

■ A disappointing fall in new mortgages in January, and weak bank lending added to more than three million unemployed, suggested that recovery may be slow to arrive

vided in mortgages last month was the lowest for more than nine years, according to the Building Societies Association. Societies agreed to lend £1.54 billion, down from £1.9 billion in December. Gross lending was also down from £2.1 billion to £1.8 billion.

January is not a good month for mortgage applications or completions, although estate agents have been reporting more interest in properties. This may indicate that interest is not translating into purchases or that societies are losing market share to banks and centralised lenders. Adrian Coles, head of exter-

nal affairs at the BSA, said: "January's fall in net new commitments was not unexpected given the normal seasonal pattern of lending. It is still too early for the increase in activity reported by some housebuilders and estate agents since the turn of the year to be reflected in these figures. However, signs of a turnaround should become evident over the coming months."

When it takes place, societies may be in a better position to fund it, after their largest savings inflow for 15 months in January of £363 million. This was more than the net inflow for all of 1992 — £295 million. Societies were particularly pleased at the increase from £117 million in December as National Savings had a range of tax-free products.

Bank lending and M4 broad money supply remained weak in January, suggesting the flow of credit, a prerequisite for recovery, is still not happening. Total, seasonally adjusted sterling lending by commercial banks rose more than £2.1 billion last month after a net repayment of £1.7 billion in December. Economists noted, however, that the trend of credit demand may even be weakening. Total lending in the quarter to January totalled £3.9 billion against £6.7 billion the previous three months and £8.6 billion the quarter before that.

US financial markets seced as investors tried to digest the implications of President Clinton's State of the Union address.

Early reaction was favourable, with Wall Street showing healthy gains, long-dated US Treasury bonds climbing by as much as 3/4 of a point and the dollar strengthening against the mark. It closed in London at DM1.6325, about a pence up on Wednesday but below its DM1.64 opening.

The Dow Jones industrial average, having risen 15 points amid general relief over the State of the Union Address, later fell 35 points as companies became more nervous about President Clinton's tax plans, but recovered to 3,289.57, down 22.69 points.

Kingfisher acquires Darty



Entente cordiale: Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, left, and Philippe Frances seal the deal

By GEORGE SIVELL CITY EDITOR

KINGFISHER, which takes in Woolworths, Comet, Superdrug and B&Q, is paying £1.035 million for Darty, the French electrical retailer. The group is raising £313 million from shareholders and forecasts a slight fall in pre-tax profits for the year just ended.

The shares rose 30p to 557p yesterday. Analysts said the price was less than expected after Kingfisher, headed by Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, revealed on February 4 that it was in talks with Darty.

However, the deal leaves Kingfisher with sharply higher debts of 66 per cent of shareholdings' funds, because of an £800 million write-off of goodwill. Darty, headed by Philippe Frances, has a negative net worth of 2.5 billion francs, a throwback to a management buyout in 1988, and needs a strong partner to carry through expansion plans. Kingfisher believes Darty's cash flow is strong enough to pay off the debts quickly.

In a reference to the Anglo-French quarrel over "social dumping", Darty said it stocked all big electrical manufacturers' goods, including Hoover. The deal would increase job numbers on both sides of the Channel. Kingfisher is raising £313 million from its own shareholders via a one-for-seven cash call at 450p. Payment is in two parts: the first, of 225p, is payable on acceptance; the second on a month's notice from Kingfisher. The acquisition of Darty is subject to Brussels approval and the second instalment will be sought only if the deal goes ahead.

Darty shareholders, largely management, staff, the Darty family and institutions, will receive 68 million shares and £207 million in cash. Kingfisher assumes £480 million of Darty debts.

Kingfisher estimates it made £210 million before tax in the year to January 31, down from £227.7 million in the previous year because of a £26 million writedown.

Total dividend for the year is forecast to rise from 13p to 13.7p.

Tempus, page 25

American Airlines cuts operation

FROM HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN DALLAS



Crandall: a bad 1992

AMERICAN Airlines, the biggest airline in the world, yesterday began drastically to scale down its operations in an attempt to pull out of spiralling losses.

The plan, yet to be finalised, could involve cancelling leases on more than \$1 billion worth of Airbus jets, shedding staff, renegotiating contracts, giving up many domestic routes and closing some US bases.

AMR Corporation, the airline's parent, had net losses of \$935 million last year and has ordered an emergency pro-

gramme to halt the cash drain by the end of the year. Robert Crandall, AA's chairman, said: "We simply cannot have another year like 1992."

The expected decision to cancel leases on 25 of the airline's 34 Airbus A300 jets will be a hard blow to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. Work on building jets is already slowing as airlines cut orders. Airlines throughout the US lost a total of \$2 billion last year and in the past three

years have accumulated losses of more than \$8 billion. Much of the blame for the losses is being put on US law that allows bankrupt airlines to offer unrealistically low fares under Chapter 11 protection.

The growing move to protectionism in the US could lead to curbs on BA and other foreign carriers from operating there and increased pressure on Britain to allow US carriers greater access to Heathrow, and could even threaten the BA-USAir link.

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Howe, Clinton — and now Lamont?

Herb Stein, a wise and witty survivor of the Nixon administration, never fell for Reaganomics. But the first Reagan budget did contain one important fiscal innovation, he admitted: the asterisk, signifying future spending cuts yet to be identified. They never were, and the Americans never tried it on again; but the appearance of the Michael Portillo roadshow rouses a nasty suspicion. Will Mr Lamont try to show his determination to cut the deficit with a simple announcement that no cows are now sacred? Not even a charismatic Chancellor could get away with it; and for Mr Lamont, the only quicker route to a sterling crisis would be to call this promise a Tarpapery Charter.

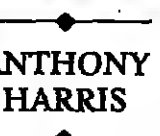
President Bill Clinton faces the same basic problem as Mr Lamont — how to close a deficit caused by excessive tax cuts in the past, and he has set a considerably better example. Despite a suspect recovery, he has attacked the deficit boldly on the tax front.

There are some spending cuts, though this side of the equation is still uncomfortably stumpy, and depends excessively on the future achievements of Mrs Clinton. However, the form

will be better known long before Congress has finished amending the Clinton proposals, so a credible long-term package is still likely. At any rate, the US bond markets seem to believe so.

If our own government has any strategy beyond reacting to the day's statistics, it must surely be on the same lines: to justify an easy monetary policy with fiscal severity. This is how the bold Sir Geoffrey Howe faced another of Mr Lamont's problems, a dangerously over-valued exchange rate, 12 years ago. His deflationary budget in a slump was denounced by all the leading economists — as wrong then as they are now; but it worked. The recovery he started went on until Mr Lawson overheated it six years later (but was not denounced by many economists).

The idea that sterling could still be overvalued is believed only in the markets at the moment. The theorists, looking back only to the 1980s, see a large devaluation, and apparently highly competitive costs. But Ian



ANTHONY HARRIS

Shepherdson, of Greenwell Montagu, pointed out a few weeks ago that the 1980s were a period of rapid relative decline in UK manufacturing, as in the US. Much capacity was lost in the competitive crunch which ended in 1982 (though not until 1987 in the US). Even after the Howe move, and the subsequent correction for sterling, this capacity was never replaced. Investment was only enough to replace scrapage. Hence the apparent shortage of capacity even now, which seems to be confirmed by industrial surveys. We were never competitive enough — or not reliably enough — to persuade British companies to expand at home (though the Japanese, with their super-efficiency and with the help of public subsidies have shown more confidence).

What President Clinton has implicitly recognised, but no British minister has even privately admitted, is that our two economies need to be treated essentially as developing economies. This

means long-term priority for exports and investment: a shock-proof fiscal policy, the lowest possible interest rates, and therefore a reliably competitive exchange rate, which normally means a hyper-competitive rate to start with. This is a syndrome which the IMF well understands, as the once-grumbling economies of Latin America have learned to their advantage.

Does Mr Major understand? His pentant reaction to IMF advice is not promising, and the signs are that he, not Mr Lamont, is running strategy. But perhaps the Howe-Clinton example will be easier to follow than IMF advice, with its shades of Healey. Confidence is what is lacking, and that means credibility, not stimulus (except for the free stimulus which could come from the threat of future tax increases). There are even tax increases which could be made at once with little risk — especially the expensive savings concessions (Peps and the rest), which are understood only by the sophisticated and lead mainly to switching rather than extra funds. Mr Lamont needs to be boldly severe; even to outdo the president. If he does really well, he may even be denounced by the economists.

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Kleinwort leaps as provisions are shaved

Figures from one of the City's foremost merchant banks have perked up the market, but a closer examination suggests that the underlying trend is still down

By PATRICIA TEHAN

KLEINWORT Benson Group, the merchant bank, has unveiled a surprise 66 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £46.3 million for 1992, helped by an 82 per cent fall in net banking provisions to £7 million.

The annual payout stays at 16p. Earnings before an exceptional £13.6 million prior year tax charge increased from 26.6p to 14.3p a share.

Jonathan Agnew, chief executive, said the payout was held because the dividend cover, at 1.5 times before the exceptional charge, "is not excessive".

The results boosted Kleinwort shares 17p to 378p. Mr Agnew said the exceptional tax charge relates to financial transactions entered into with a handful of clients in 1988.

Despite the pre-tax figure, the bank's profits before provisions continued a downward trend, falling 20 per cent to £53.3 million (£66.9 million). Alison Deuchars, banking analyst with Lehman Brothers, said: "There is still the issue of where the income generation is going to come from."

She forecasts an increase in pre-tax profits to £55 million in the current year, with earnings of 33.3p, and expects the dividend to be held for the third year in succession.

Profits were also helped by a "particularly active and profitable year" from its treasury division. Merchant banking and securities profits increased from £24.7 million to £33 million. But investment management profits, which include private banking, fell

from £24.4 million to £22.1 million, mainly as a result of £5 million provisions against lending within the private bank, mostly relating to mortgages.

Kleinwort made new banking provisions of £24 million, offset by releases and recoveries of £17 million, resulting in £7 million (£39 million) net provisions.

The pre-tax figure was achieved after additional £10 million provisions for the future costs of surplus office space in Britain and America. Kleinwort has also reviewed the carrying value of its properties and charged £21 million against revaluation reserves established in 1986 and 1990. Provisions would have been higher, but for a £5.5 million release of general provisions.

Mr Agnew said Kleinwort's pre-tax return on capital, at 11 per cent, is "not where we would aim to be eventually", though it has increased from 7 per cent in 1991. He said the bank is aiming for a 25 per cent pre-tax return, depending "on economic conditions".

The company achieved its goal of reducing its loan book. Loans and advances fell from £2.3 billion to £2.07 billion, and corporate lending fell from £662 million to £607 million.

David Peake, the chairman, will retire after the annual meeting in April to be succeeded by Lord Rockey, a vice chairman of the bank.

Tempos, page 25



Discussing eastern promises: Theo Waigel, left, the German finance minister, called on Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in the City of London yesterday. The two men discussed urgent plans for a fund to make safe Eastern Europe's dangerous nuclear plants and a special fund to provide finance for small and medium-sized firms in Russia. Herr Waigel is the chairman of the bank's board of governors.

Wise optimistic on outlook despite fall

By PHILIP PANGALOS

NEIL Wise, chairman of Leslie Wise Group, the textiles, womenswear and knitted fabrics group, is cautiously optimistic about prospects for 1993, despite an 11.8 per cent decline in full-year profits.

Higher interest charges pushed pre-tax profits to £2.52 million in the year to end-November, against £2.86 million last time. A 30 per cent jump in exports and new start-up ventures helped turnover advance 20.3 per cent to £48.7 million. Interest costs rose to £321,000 (£51,000).

Mr Wise said: "We had a very difficult last quarter. Sterling is our biggest problem at the moment, but considering that problem, this is a very creditable performance." He

blames sterling's effective devaluation since its exit from the exchange-rate mechanism for increased costs of imported raw materials and fabric printing. Wise also suffered from unusually high bad debts in the final quarter and the cost of the closure of two design companies that were unable to make sufficient progress in the difficult trading environment.

Mr Wise is cautiously optimistic of an improvement in underlying conditions. "There are glimmers of hope at the moment that conditions in the high street areas where we trade are getting a little better."

Earnings drop to 4.96p (5.8p) a share. The final dividend is maintained at 2.25p, for an unchanged total of 4p.

Advertising agency seeks cash for bids

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GOLD Greenlees Trott, the advertising agency, has joined the queue for rights issues with a £14.7 million one-for-three cash call at 235p a share, to fund possible acquisitions.

Mike Greenlees, joint chairman and chief executive, said GGT had three potential purchases in mind in America and Europe, and while those talks continued the rights issue would help the company demonstrate its ability to go through with the deals.

"It's not opportunistic, because we've been planning it for some time," he said in response to market criticism that the company was cashing in on its high share price.

The rights is underwritten and pitched at a large discount

to the share price, which fell 12p to 288p. Mr Greenlees said he expected the money would be spent on the acquisitions, but until then it would be used to reduce the GGT's £23.9 million borrowings.

GGT is forecasting a final dividend in the current year to end-April of 5p, which would maintain the total at 8.3p. The company is not making a profit forecast, but the market is looking for £4.5 million at the taxable level.

Mr Greenlees said the group, which sees more than half its earnings from the US, would benefit from the higher dollar. The US operations should continue to perform strongly, but the UK situation remained difficult.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New-look Cupid to target lingerie market

CUPID, the USM quoted, loss-making bridalwear group, is to target the lingerie market in a bid to revive its fortunes following a boardroom split before Christmas, and a forecast yesterday that it will make losses of up to £1.5 million in the year to end-March.

Richard Shaw, non-executive director, yesterday became chairman and chief executive following the recent resignation of Mike Murray, the founder. Cupid is raising £1.9 million by way of a subscription for 2.3 million shares and a four-for-nine rights issue of 4.8 million new shares, both at a deeply discounted 28p.

Alumasc edges up

ALUMASC, the beer kegs to building products group, saw interim pre-tax profits edge up just over 3 per cent to £3.8 million in the six months to end-December, compared with £3.6 million last time. Turnover rose from £23.6 million to £24.3 million, with earnings per share of 16.5p (15.8p). The interim dividend is raised from 3.55p to 3.7p. John McCall, chairman, said there were no firm indicators of recovery. Alumasc's net cash balances grew by £1.5 million during the period, and now stand at just under £5 million. As a result, interest income jumped to £148,000 (£109,000).

Kvaerner slips back

NORWAY'S Kvaerner group, with activities that include shipbuilding, offshore oil and gas, shipping and mechanical engineering, saw pre-tax profit dip by 15 per cent to £93.2 million last year: that of the shipbuilding division, however, leaped from £53.1 million to £73.5 million. The Norwegian company acquired the Govan yard, on the Clyde, in 1988. Jan Magne Heggelund, finance director, said Kvaerner expected Govan, which was losing £60 million to £70 million a year in the late eighties, to return to profit this year after almost breaking even in 1992.

Ward in red by £5m

WARD Holdings, the Kent housebuilder and property group, announced £5.3 million losses for the year to end-October, against a £14 million loss last time. Denis Ward, chairman, said trading conditions were the "worst in living memory". Despite selling 10 per cent more houses, housebuilding losses deepened to £4.2 million (£3.4 million). Plant hire losses reached £585,000 (£395,000 loss). Profits from property investment and commercial development fell to £1.6 million (£2 million). In addition to trading losses of £3.2 million (£1.8 million loss), Ward took a £2.1 million exceptional charge for restructuring.

Surveyor in merger talks

SINCLAIR Goldsmith Holdings, the quoted firm of surveyors and estate agents, is holding merger talks with Conrad Ritblat & Co, a private surveyor. The announcement followed a rise in the share price from 28p to 35p when share dealings were suspended at the company's request. Neil Sinclair, joint managing director, said the talks "might take some time". Sinclair Goldsmith made a loss of £500,000 last year. The firm has 35 staff and specialises in rating work throughout the UK. Conrad Ritblat deals in retail and leisure property and has a staff of about 150.



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Countryside sees signs of housing recovery

Countryside Properties, a leading housebuilder, said yesterday that it is seeing signs that the long-awaited recovery in the housing market might be under way.

Alan Cherry, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting: "House enquiries and reservations to date are up by 70 and 40 per cent on last year and it is to be hoped that the worst of the recession is now behind us."

He said there had been too many false dawns in the past and it was important not to be misled by "hype and hope".

R-R boost

Contracts for ten industrial gas turbine engines worth a total of \$120 million have been won by Cooper Rolls, a joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Cooper Industries of Houston. The engines will result in about \$35 million of work for Rolls.

SWP edges up

SWP Group, the USM-quoted maker and installer of specialist components for the construction industry, lifted pre-tax profits from £31,000 to £42,000 in the six months to end-December. Turnover edged up from £3.65 million to £3.71 million. Earnings were static at 0.1p a share. There is no interim again.

Coats' offer

Coats Vytella, the textiles group that is a 72 per cent shareholder in Youghal Carpets (Holdings), now speaks for a total of 93.81 per cent of Youghal, following Coats' recommended offer for the remaining ordinary shares it did not already own in the Irish carpets group. The offer remains open until March 3.

Brown Shipley

A report yesterday ("Rival bid for bank is likely") should have referred to the possibility of a bid for Brown Shipley Holdings, the investment management and stockbroking company, and not, as stated, to Brown Shipley merchant bank, which has been 100 per cent-owned by Kredietbank Luxembourg since June last year. We apologise for the error.



Comfort in cash: Ernest Mario, Glaxo chief executive, announcing £819m pre-tax profits and a growing hoard of investments yesterday

Glaxo increases cash pile as first-half profits rise 16%

By GEORGE SIVELL
CITY EDITOR

Glaxo is looking for acquisitions to soak up its growing cash balances and has ruled out a special dividend to shareholders for tax reasons

GLAXO, the pharmaceuticals group, has increased its cash pile to £1.5 billion after a 16 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £819 million.

At end-December, Glaxo's hoard of investments, net of borrowings, had risen to £1.5 billion from £1.3 billion at the June year-end, and £1.2 billion a year ago. Net income from investments rose from £77 million to £79 million in the latest half-year.

Dr Ernest Mario, the chief executive, said: "If we could find a reasonable investment for the money we would do it. We are looking at this very seriously. There is still value in covering the dividend two

times but there is comfort in having the cash there."

Glaxo said it was unlikely to make a special one-off dividend payment to shareholders because of the advance corporation tax that would need to be paid. "We would not want to do that, especially at the moment," said one director.

The company also said it was freezing one of its directors, Arthur Pappas, to study how Glaxo could develop marketing its drugs on the over-the-counter market if they should

find an appropriate place there.

Dr Mario said: "We are not 100 per cent sure on products going on to the OTC. We are not sure they will work but on the assumption they will... we are trying to figure out a way to get the capability to take our own products on to the OTC; we are not discussing details."

Glaxo shares, meanwhile, rose 36p to 698p as a 17 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 7p a share was de-

clared, out of earnings up 16 per cent to 19.4p a share. The company said exchange rates were volatile but that the pound's depreciation made just 1 per cent difference to trading profits. Sales rose by 16 per cent to £2.3 billion, of which Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug, contributed £1.03 billion, a rise of 16 per cent.

Glaxo, aware of its reliance on Zantac profits, says new products contributed 11 per cent of sales at £245 million, 29 per cent of sales growth. Of these, Zofran, an anti-emetic, rose 36 per cent to £163 million. Imigran, a migraine treatment, achieved £35 million of sales.

Becotide, the inhaled steroid asthma treatment, saw its sales rise 15 per cent to £165

million, and Zinnat, the antibiotic, raised sales by 49 per cent to £160 million.

Sir Paul Girolami, the chairman, said: "This very satisfactory outcome reflects the continuing vitality and relevance of our long-established medicines and the promise held out by the successful introduction of our new products into the market."

On the US market and the proposed Clinton health policies, Dr Mario said: "It is really up in the air. But it is necessary that the American government and the industry maintain a dialogue. The danger is that they stop talking. But what they will finally come up with is anyone's guess."

Tempus, page 25

Bankers wrestle over DAF rescue

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE future of the DAF truck company and its 6,500 continental European workers is in the hands of bankers engaged in a "who blinks first" battle to decide how the cost of a rescue is shared out.

As financiers meet for a third day of discussions today, Koos Andriessen, the Dutch Economic Affairs minister, faces demands from Dutch members of parliament that an agreement on financing a New DAF company be completed by Monday.

Securing the future of the group's continental operations will help efforts by administrative receivers to Leyland DAF, the British subsidiary, to restart production, to break up the business, and to sell the main units as going concerns.

But British banks in the nine-bank consortium of creditors to the collapsed truck company, aided by some continental allies, are believed to be insisting on the maximum price for assets transferred to New DAF. Until a transfer

value can be agreed for the DAF truck assembly plant at Eindhoven, The Netherlands, and the cab and axle works at Westerlo, Belgium, the rescue package cannot be completed.

ABN/Amro, the Dutch bank that leads the panel of creditor banks, is expected to broker an agreement on private-sector loans to New DAF. According to an ABN/Amro spokesman, the transfer values will determine how much new equity the three biggest Dutch banks, ABN/Amro, ING Bank and Rabobank, are obliged to inject into the new company.

The business plan drawn up by administrators is understood to call for a balance sheet of 1 to 1.2 billion guilders (£375 million to £450 million), including 400 to 500 million guilders of equity.

The Dutch government and the Flemish state government in Belgium have offered to provide around 250 million guilders, little more than half the total.

McLeod bids for Wheway

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MCLEOD Russel, the mini-conglomerate, launched a £14.3 million all-paper offer for Wheway, a struggling environmental engineer. It said it had done so "out of frustration", after the breakdown of merger talks.

McLeod is offering one of its shares for every ten in Wheway, valuing the bid target's shares at 10.2p each. McLeod, with interests spanning paints to property and textiles, bought 2.99 per cent of Wheway last year. The bid offer follows last week's departure of Wheway's chief executive, John McGowan.

Wheway advised shareholders to "take no action and not to sell their shares". McLeod made pre-tax profits of £5.18 million in the year to September 30; Wheway made a loss of £3.5 million in the year to October 3.

Wheway shares, which have slumped from a high of 140p in 1989, rose 1.5p to 9p; McLeod's eased 2p to 100p.

Writedowns hit Control Securities

By JON ASHWORTH

MASSIVE property writedowns have sent Control Securities, the pubs-to-hotels group formerly run by Nazam Virani, £68 million into the red in the half year to September 30.

Control, in talks with creditors for almost a year, has made provisions of £53 million against property holdings. Net assets now amount to less than half its called-up share capital, with a deficiency of consolidated shareholders' funds of £32 million. Shareholders will meet on March 17 to discuss the situation.

The shares were suspended at 16p in October 1991 after the Serious Fraud Office raided the company. The SFO enquiry concerns the Virani family, not Control, but the shares remain suspended while restructuring talks continue.

Pre-tax losses were £68.4 million in the half year against a £4.4 million profit. There was a loss per share of 16.73p (0.56p earnings) and no interim dividend (0.55p).

Heaton joins Bank board as first woman director

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Bank of England has appointed a woman to its board of directors for the first time in its 299-year history. Frances Heaton, director-general of the Takeover Panel, is one of three new directors appointed for a four-year term from next month.

Mrs Heaton said last night that although the Bank had been looking for a woman to join the board, "I would have thought that much the more important thing is the blend of experience." Mrs Heaton, 48, was at the Treasury for a decade and worked in the City for another ten years.

She joined the Takeover Panel last March, leaving her job as corporate finance director with Lazard Brothers, the investment bank.

Mrs Heaton was chosen for her unusual combination of experience in political and City work. She said: "Working in the political arena and in the commercial world you do have a broader perspective."

Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman of Lloyds Bank, and Sir Chippendale "Chips" Keswick, chairman of Hambros merchant bank, are the other two newcomers to the board.

The three replace Sir David Walker, deputy chairman of Lloyds; Sir Brian Corby chairman of Prudential Corporation; and Lord Haslam,

chairman of Bechuel, whose terms of office expire at the end of this month.

Sir David had also worked at the Treasury at the same time as Mrs Heaton.

The post at the Bank of England is a non-executive role, and pays about £500 a year. The bank has 12 non-executive directors and four executive directors, three associate directors as well as the Governor and Deputy Governor who usually meet once a week to discuss and advise on Bank matters. Sir Jeremy, 64,

is not new to the Bank. He was formerly executive director of both the domestic and overseas operations of the Bank in the 1960s before joining Lloyds in 1975.

Sir "Chips", 53, joined Hambros in 1965 and was appointed chairman in 1986. Since 1992 he has been chairman of the banking committee of the British Merchant Banking and Securities Houses Association.

Andrew Crockett, was re-appointed as a director of the Bank yesterday.



Making history: Frances Heaton, the board's first woman

RTZ buys into US coal sector

By COLIN NARBROUGH

RTZ, the mining group, has taken a first strategic step into the American coal industry with the acquisition of the loss-making Nerco for about \$470 million through a merger with RTZ's wholly-owned American subsidiary, Kennecott.

Pacificorp Holdings, which holds 82 per cent of Nerco, has approved the merger plan, including a cash consideration of \$12 a share. Pacificorp has agreed, if RTZ so wishes, to fund \$225 million of the deal through a subsidiary, to be repaid from Nerco's future contract revenues. RTZ shares fell 5 to 646p.

The acquisition, following news that Kennecott was halting production at Greens Creek, Alaska, the biggest silver mine in North America, brings RTZ new gold and silver properties in America. It is considering existing plans to sell these. Nerco's oil and gas interests, which do not fit the RTZ strategy, will be sold. Without allowance for the proceeds of disposals, the Nerco buy will raise RTZ's gearing to about 60 per cent.

Robert Wilson, RTZ chief executive, said he could not yet say what the net investment would be, but the increased gearing was no cause for concern.

Tempus, page 25

Lloyd's to cut 300 jobs across the board

By SARAH BAGNALL

ANOTHER 300 jobs are to go at the Corporation of Lloyd's, which regulates and manages the insurance market. The latest cuts bring the total announced since December to 600, nearly 30 per cent of the work force.

The redundancies, announced yesterday by Peter Middleton, the chief executive, are to affect staff at all levels, reducing the corporation's layers of management from 15 to six. He added that the cuts made since the new year ranged from senior managers to chauffeurs. The staff losses are part of plans to

reduce the corporation's budget for 1993 by £30 million to £115 million. The budget reduction has increased by £3 million since Christmas because of a review of operations. Salaries totalled £55 million last year, the largest single item in the budget, said Mr Middleton.

Employees are being offered redundancy packages reflecting their age and years of service. Staff get 3.5 weeks' pay for each working year up to the age of 50, after which they receive 5.5 weeks' pay. The average salary is £22,000. "The package is as generous as any in industry," said Mr Middleton. He also said that

from next year the remaining 1,600 staff would be paid on a performance-related basis.

Other cost savings are to be made in entertainment, travel and computer systems development work. However, the practice of lighting up the Lloyd's building at night will not be affected. This was because of security reasons, he said, and because the building is a characteristic landmark in the City.

There is evidence that the lead taken by the corporation in attempting to control costs, historically equivalent to 10 per cent of the Lloyd's market cost base, is beginning to feed through to the market itself.

Sturge Holdings, the largest Lloyd's underwriting group, slashed staff by 175 in 1992 to 1,550 and said more cuts are expected.

The pressure group formed by Lloyd's names on Syndicate 126 has been promised help from Alexander Syndicate Management, the Lloyd's agency managing its affairs. The names are pressing for information and involvement on the way the syndicate's open years are being managed by ASM. Jeremy Hardie, ASM's chairman, said: "We wish to co-operate fully with the names on Syndicate 126 and give them all the information they need."

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The theatre of pay strikes may be due for a revival

The monster of British wage inflation was thought by some to have been slain in the eighties, but Philip Bassett detects faint signs of life

In the sound and fury that engulfed yesterday's 3 million unemployment figure, another deeply significant economic threshold was crossed: the rise in average earnings dipped below 5 per cent for the first time in a quarter of a century.

The announcement by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, of a further fall in the annual rate of increase in average earnings — the sixth monthly drop in a row — coupled with the continuing rise in unemployment, makes two apparent returns to the economy's old ways even more inexplicable: the strike, due to start tonight, at Peugeot Talbot's three Coventry car plants, and the week-old strike at the Yarrow warship yard on the Clyde — both over pay.

For both industry and the government, events like these articulate the unspoken worry behind the slow march downward of the earnings figures: that Britain's pay-inflation link has been squashed, but not broken, by high unemployment in the recession.

Business boardrooms and Whitehall offices are divided over pay. Some feel that Britain's pay problem has been solved by a string of economic and labour market changes, including decentralised pay bargaining, low inflation, the reduction of trade union power and unemployment. Others are more sceptical that Britain's apparently endemic propensity for inflation has been altered, and believe there is little in the changes to prevent a resurgence of pay inflation if the economic climate improves.

Industry and government's concern is that pay is lurking at the heart of a real economic difficulty: that, as so often before, the benefits of a devaluation will be thrown away in rising inflation, often wage-driven. Higher import prices following sterling devaluation last September will push up UK companies' domestic costs, which will feed through into inflation, reversing the present downward trend: this in turn will fuel higher pay deals. They will increase inflation still further, and set off a classic wage-price spiral.

Is there any evidence for this? Unemployment clearly has pushed down the level of wage deals, and maintains its impact on wage bargaining. Tony Woodley, motor industry national secretary of the TGWU transport union, acknowledges this on the very eve of leading the planned Peugeot Talbot pay strike over a two-year, 3.5 per cent each year, offer: "Pay doesn't come into it. Who wants 3½ per cent if you haven't got anywhere to come into a week on Monday? If they came to us with a job security statement I would say to my people in 1993 — get back into work."

Fuelled by such pragmatism, business optimists are gratified that the 5 per cent floor in average pay increases — unbroken since 1967 — has been breached. The third of settlements recorded as pay freezes by the Confederation of British Industry — Pirelli and ICL are the latest — supports that idea of a downward trend.

Not against them, most pay deals last year, and so far in this, are still inflation-plus. Littlewoods at 3.6 per cent, 4.5 per cent at Pfizer Chemicals, 3 per cent at the textile industry, 4.6 per cent at The Guardian, 4 per cent at Nissan, 3.1 per cent for the electrical contracting industry. Though driven by improved performance, merit pay rises are also high: 4 per cent at American Express, 4.5 per cent at Confederation Life, 6.6 per cent at Sun Life of Canada. Productivity agreements are also giving big increases, such as the deal approved for some ICI workers which will give them at least 14.5 per cent on top of a recent 5.1 per cent annual deal.

Broader surveys bear this out. Though the CBI's pay databank recorded deals averaging 2.8 per cent for the final quarter of last year, lower than the inflation average, other independent analyses were less sanguine.



Cause and effect: Gillian Shephard reports jobless and pay deal figures

Incomes Data Services place deals now in the 3 per cent to 5 per cent range, while Industrial Relations Services put them at 3.6 per cent — both well ahead of inflation. Management pay rises, too, remain high, with a recent Noble Lowndes salary survey charting them at an average of 4 per cent.

Such inflation-plus deals do not bode well for the chances of avoiding a resurgence of wage inflation — led again, as it was throughout most of the 1980s, by pay settlements suited to employer needs, rather than being driven by union or employee wage push.

Despite this, employers' bodies, such as the CBI, see little role for any central intervention in private-sector wage setting beyond exhortations by them and the government that companies should keep pay settlements low if they wish to remain competitive both within the UK and in the rest of Europe — advice that employers have largely rejected in the past.

Instead, the CBI in particular, supported by other business lobbies such as the Institute of Directors, is pressing for a further clamp on pay in

the public sector. They want to build on a perceived touchdown: Howard Davies, the CBI's energetic director general, last year brought the idea of a public sector pay limit back onto the public policy agenda — and within three months the government announced a limit on settlements of 1.5 per cent for 1992-3.

Senior Treasury officials believe that the carefully pitched 1.5 per cent limit will be enough at a time of high and rapidly rising unemployment to apply across the public sector without posing any real threat of industrial action. They judge that the grumblings against it from unions, such as Nalco, the local government workers association, are largely ritualistic and will not, when it comes to it, carry much force. They may well be right.

A greater concern for the Treasury is that the policy will not hold because of employer, rather than employee, rejection of it: that a manager in a devoted government agency, or hospital trust, or opted-out school, will simply not be prepared to accept such direct central intervention into what was supposed to be their independent management freedom of action.

There are some signs of this. Waverley borough council for instance, in Conservative Surrey, has just agreed a deal averaging 3.77 per cent, which it has split into two 1.5 per cent parts in what unions will judge to be a largely cosmetic adherence to the pay limit. By cutting staff numbers, the council believes the payroll cost of the deal will be less than 1.5 per cent — though the government's limit is specifically not on pay bills, but on actual settlements.

Similarly, South Oxfordshire and Tandridge district councils have agreed pay deals of 3.6 and 3.2 per cent respectively for the year covered by the pay limit, though both have said they will apply the limit next year.

Such anomalies make coming out of a pay policy always the hardest part. Pay policies are usually followed by pay explosions as, for different reasons, employers and employees catch up on what they feel they have lost. Michael Portillo, Treasury chief secretary, has insisted the government will not allow any pay catch-up after the limit is over, and Treasury officials are now puzzling out how they might go about trying to prevent this.

If the 1.5 per cent limit largely holds, ministers with an eye on the government's roaring public spending deficit will be tempted simply to repeat a limit on settlements. Such policies tend not to stick for more than a few years, and Howard Davies has already started to argue that the government should instead apply a payroll limit. This would give more flexibility, and head off revolts from devolved managers, but it would be difficult to police, and the Treasury would be wary of some arrangement that would code central control. What happens next remains unresolved.

Ministers are pleased with the earnings breakthrough. But with inflation-plus deals still the norm, both government and business quietly recognise that private and public-sector pay may be looming as a returning problem — and one that may pose a real threat to Britain's recent inflation record.

AT LEAST RTZ has shown it is not scared of President Clinton by buying into the American coal industry a day after his energy tax announcement. The market was naturally overawed by the acquisition of Nercro. The group was so hidebound by SEC regulations that it could release little more than tantalising hints of the details of the deal. Investors must indulge in pure guesswork to decide whether this is good news.

Superficially, RTZ seems to be taking a gamble. It is paying \$1.16 billion, including the assumption of debt, for a company that lost \$551 million last year. Put another way, the group is paying almost twice book value for an unappealing mixture of energy and precious metal assets. The group, however, has ensured the dice are weighted in its favour. Almost half the cash element is

covered by a \$225 million easy-payment loan from PacificCorp, the vendor, which seems keen to do anything to get Nercro off its hands.

RTZ should be able to raise \$400 million from the sale of the oil and gas and gold and silver interests. This will leave three coal mines that can generate more than \$100 million a year and have the capacity to increase production over time by a fifth to more than 20 million tonnes a year. RTZ looks to be buying the mines at a net cost of \$760 million on a p/e ratio of less than eight. Nercro's profits will also be boosted when RTZ refinances short-term borrowings at lower rates.

A rise in gearing to 60 per cent after the deal could still unsettle shareholders. It need not. RTZ proved its ability to consume large acquisitions when it bought BP Minerals. There is every sign it can repeat the trick.

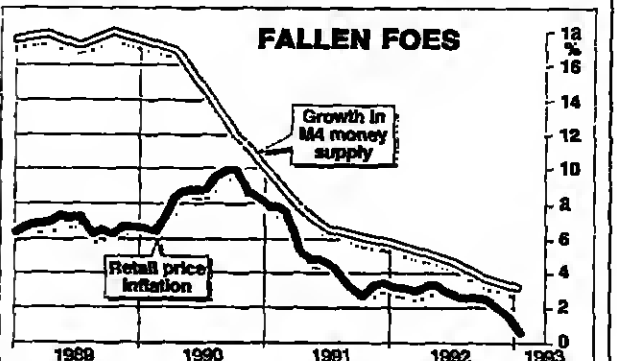
TEMPUS RTZ makes a canny bet

Money supply figures are looking increasingly messy and the Bank of England is at a loss to explain them. The run of disappointing figures is not only contradicted by strong growth in M0, but by a sharp rise in M4 lending. The economy is stalled, tentatively recovering or threatening to overheat depending on which figures you look at.

M4 growth has been depressed by 0.2 of a percentage point by a delay in building society interest credits, but even adjusting for this the figure is still 0.6 of a point below the Treasury's range. By contrast, last month's £4.1 billion rise in M4 lending was more than twice what the City expected and double the average growth of last year, and only a fraction of the growth can be accounted for by the change in VAT pay-

ments. In theory the rise should be reflected in the main M4 figure soon, but theories tend to be rewritten when confronted with statistics like these.

The Chancellor may ignore the message the poor M4 figure is sending out but he could use it to ease funding difficulties. The full-funding rule may be suspended as the government turns to the clearing banks as its lenders of last resort. If so, current M4 figures may be called on to suggest inflationary pressures are weak or non-existent, and that the economy will not come to any harm from a little boost to the money supply. A dangerous assumption, given all the conflicting signals.



Glaxo

THE interim results from Glaxo are hard to fault. A 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £819 million was far ahead of analysts' forecasts. Zantac showed unexpected strength, growing by 14 per cent at constant exchange rates. New products will provide growth when Zantac has to contend with generic competition.

Glaxo is better protected than its competitors against any price controls in America: only 1 per cent of its sales go to the OTC market. The cash mountain should be seen as a strength, not a weakness.

Even so, shareholders must be eyeing Glaxo's £1.5 billion cash reserve with increasing curiosity. The question is where to invest. Glaxo is already spending heavily on research and still generating cash. The group could increase the dividend but its policy of keeping payments in line with profit growth already rewards shareholders generously.

A few years down the line this war chest may prove invaluable. The nineties

should see further consolidation in the pharmaceutical industry. Glaxo also needs resources to develop a capability to market its products, if appropriate, in the OTC market. The cash mountain should be seen as a strength, not a weakness.

In spite of the modest rights issue, Kingfisher's gearing will rise from 8 per cent to 66 per cent, although it will probably fall rapidly as both businesses are highly cash-generative. Kingfisher has been highly leveraged before, and its interest cover will still be seven times.

Kingfisher

Kingfisher and Darty may dress their deal up as a merger, but in financial terms this is a takeover. Kingfisher will end up with more than 95 per cent of Darty, whereas Darty will have only 12 per cent of Kingfisher, plus some cash in the bank.

The financial pressures on Darty probably gave Kingfisher extra negotiating muscle. Debts of £477 million fell over from its buyout must have looked daunting, faced with the prospect of continued high interest rates and an economic slowdown.

The risk of earnings dilution depends on how much of Darty's debt can be refinanced at a lower rate, and whether its profits for the year to August 1993 will be recession-hit. Some analysts fore-

Kleinwort Benson

A 66 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at Kleinwort Benson suggests things are improving in this time-honoured merchant bank. Strip the figures bare and familiar doubts re-emerge. The fall in bad debts would have looked less impressive if the bank had not released £5.5 million from its general reserve. Before bad debt provisions the underlying trend in profits is still down. Kleinwort hopes to make a 23 per cent pre-tax return on capital in ideal conditions. On the strength of yesterday's figures it is difficult to imagine when conditions will ever be so ideal.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bomford back to City roots

A FORMER Salomons director of European Research arrives at Barclays de Zoete Wedd next week after two years away from the City. Martin Bomford will join BZW on February 24 to cover conglomerates with Mark Cusack. Since 1991, Bomford, 48, has been running his own consultancy advising unquoted companies, including acting as a part-time finance director for a marine electronics company and advising a firm based in West Africa. He has also provided a financial advisory service for people who have been made redundant from the City. Before Salomons, Bomford was an electronic analyst at Hoare Govett and Smith Keen Cutler. A keen archery fan, he has more than 25 years of investment experience in the City, and says he is returning because he misses it. "It's one of those intangible things. When it's in the blood, it's very hard to shake it out again."

Dressed down

THE new dress code Harrods has issued to its staff has met with the displeasure of one of the department stores' customers. The memo on dress, sent to staff last week, includes the ruling that skirts must be no shorter than one inch above the knee. The disgruntled customer, who was told about the ruling by a sales assistant, has written to the City Diary to complain: "I am annoyed. Despite being an OAP, I like ladies in minis (providing the legs are attractive)." Michael

Cole, Harrods' spokesman, is unrepentant: "We have always had a dress code, and this is just an improvement of standards. We indicate respect for our customers by being appropriately dressed for the job."

Exchange & dart

NEWSHOUNDS on The Wall Street Journal who are throwing darts at the paper's share price listings have proved better stock pickers than a group of Europe's top investment professionals. The game started last August, since when, the reporters' portfolio of four stocks has gained an average of 19 per cent, while that selected by four professionals gained an average of 5 per cent. It all adds weight to the "Efficient Market Theory", which holds that professional investors have little chance of beating the market with fundamental analysis, as the day's stock prices already reflect all relevant available information about a company's



"Nothing but jobs in job centres..."

future performance. The idea for the contest is based on a suggestion in Burton Malkiel's book *A Random Walk Down Wall Street* that a chimpanzee with a set of darts could beat the market pros at their own game.

Speed staking

SIR Alastair Morton, chairman of Eurotunnel, has entered into a bet with John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric. The bet — Sir Alastair cannot remember whether it is for £10 or £20 — is that the tunnel will be completed before the Sizewell B power station in Suffolk. A Nuclear Electric spokesman says: "We are eight months ahead of schedule and should be in operation by May or June 1994." He thought the bet was for Champagne.

Riva connection

IT transpires that Harry Goodman, head of the collapsed International Leisure Group, was a consultant to another travel company that ceased trading on Wednesday. Riva Travel was due to appoint a receiver last night. Riva was a tour operator to the Mediterranean, Florida and the Caribbean. The 300 passengers overseas at the moment are protected by Riva's Civil Aviation Authority bond, and the CAA will handle their repatriation. Goodman is not the only link between Riva and ILG. Riva's managing director, Jackie Kernaghan, was also managing director of an ILG tour operating subsidiary, Global & Lancaster.

WENDY VAIZEY

BUSINESS LETTERS

Picking pension scheme trustees

From D.A. Langford

Sir, With the Goode Committee on Occupational Pensions now considering submissions prior to preparation and presentation of its report to the government around the middle of the year, it is timely to re-emphasise the need for pensioner representation on the boards of trustees of occupational pension schemes.

The pensioner is the most independent potential trustee that one could seek, as he is totally free of the pressures to which employees are quite obviously subject. Even the independent trustees recommended to be chosen from the financial establishment — of banks, accountancy firms, actuarial organisations, etc, may not be totally free from pressures exerted by company managements.

Where the occupational pension scheme is contributory, there ought to be more than a moral obligation for giving pensioners, who have a considerable amount of their

money invested in the fund, a substantial involvement in the control of that fund.

Finally, the company pensioner has the best appreciation of his company's culture and management calibre. His or her contribution to the deliberations of the trustee board must, therefore, be seen as a positive and valuable addition to the available skills and not, as is so often the case, something to be guarded against at all costs because the potential input is assumed to be negative and troublesome!

This association particularly hopes that members of Parliament will ensure that the company pensioner will not be ignored in the manner which has been so prevalent to date. Yours faithfully, D.A. LANGFORD, Chairman, English China Clays Executive Retirement Benefits Scheme Pensioners' Association, 20 Sea Road, Carlyon Bay, St Austell, Cornwall.

Granite city would welcome Diamond service

From D.J. Marshall

Sir, How right Sir Michael Bishop is when he says that European business travellers have been taken for a ride for long enough (February 16), however many domestic business travellers get an even rougher deal. The service offered between Aberdeen and London leaves much to be desired. With the demise of Dan Air there is no effective competition on this route and those of us that have to travel regularly pay through the nose for an indifferent service. Aberdeen flights to and from Heathrow are frequently put on remote or International stands, necessitating bus

transfers and as a result seldom arrive on time. The early morning traveller to London is confronted by lengthy queues at the Aberdeen check in and it is standing room only at the Terminal 1 Executive Club lounge early on a Friday evening. All this for an economy fare of £250 return! A flight to Stanstead is just not practical for those with onward connections or business in West or South London. So Sir Michael, how about a "Diamond Service" between Aberdeen and London? Yours faithfully, D.J. MARSHALL, 12 Hilltop Gardens, Westhill, Aberdeen.

Junk mail for shareholders

From Mr Christopher Daws

Sir, The cost of shareholder information is high. We are fortunate in the UK that so much time and effort is put into keeping shareholders informed, but at times it gets out of hand.

As representative for various shareholders within the family, I frequently receive three, four or five identical copies of company annual reports or interim statements. A takeover battle produces a deluge.

All this stems from the company law and Stock Exchange requirements that each shareholder should receive the same basic information. Elections to receive the abbreviated annual accounts reduce the flood only slightly.

Surely the law could be changed to allow a shareholder to elect not to receive any company communications (other than dividends and other potentially valuable documents) on the basis that an associated shareholder at the same address would share the documents with him? As a safeguard, each such shareholder could be reminded annually (perhaps by a note on his dividend counterfoil) that an election was in force.

Elections could be encouraged by a nominal addition to the annual dividend, to pass back some of the savings achieved.

Annual reports are not junk mail. But many are not needed and the trees that produced them could be put to better use.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER DAWS, Sheepscombe House, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

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EQUITY PRICES 27

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Shares recover their poise

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1992/93 High Low Company Price Net Yld P/E

INFOTECH

Let's play it again, Gazza

This weekend viewers of a cable TV system will have four angles of a football match at their fingertips, Matthew May reports

On Sunday afternoon more than 100,000 people will be able to take a look at one of Britain's first experiments in interactive television. While most of the viewers of LWT's *London Match* will be able to watch only one picture, subscribers linked to a cable television system called Videoway will be able to call up three extra channels.

One will show the match from a different camera angle offering continuous "on the ball action", while another will broadcast the same pictures as the main channel with an eight-second delay, allowing viewers to choose when they want an instant replay of any sporting incident. The fourth channel will show computer-generated statistics on the teams, which will be updated during the match.

This sort of interactive television — which allows the viewer to choose which angle of the match he or she wants to watch — is one way to make use of a predicted explosion in the number of television channels that will become available over the next few years or so.

The expansion will come not so much because companies are desperate to get new channels, but because of promising developments in technology which will allow up to ten channels to be transmitted in the space at present occupied by one. The result is that dozens, if not hundreds, of new channels will become available.

The technical trick involved is digital compression, where several television channels can be turned into digital information, compressed and sent down the same space normally occupied by one of today's analogue channels.

The system does, however, require viewers to have a box on top of their television sets that will unscramble this digital information

back into analogue channels so that it can be displayed on an ordinary receiver. The first systems will be aimed at cable and satellite television operators who can offer the necessary digital decoders as part of their package.

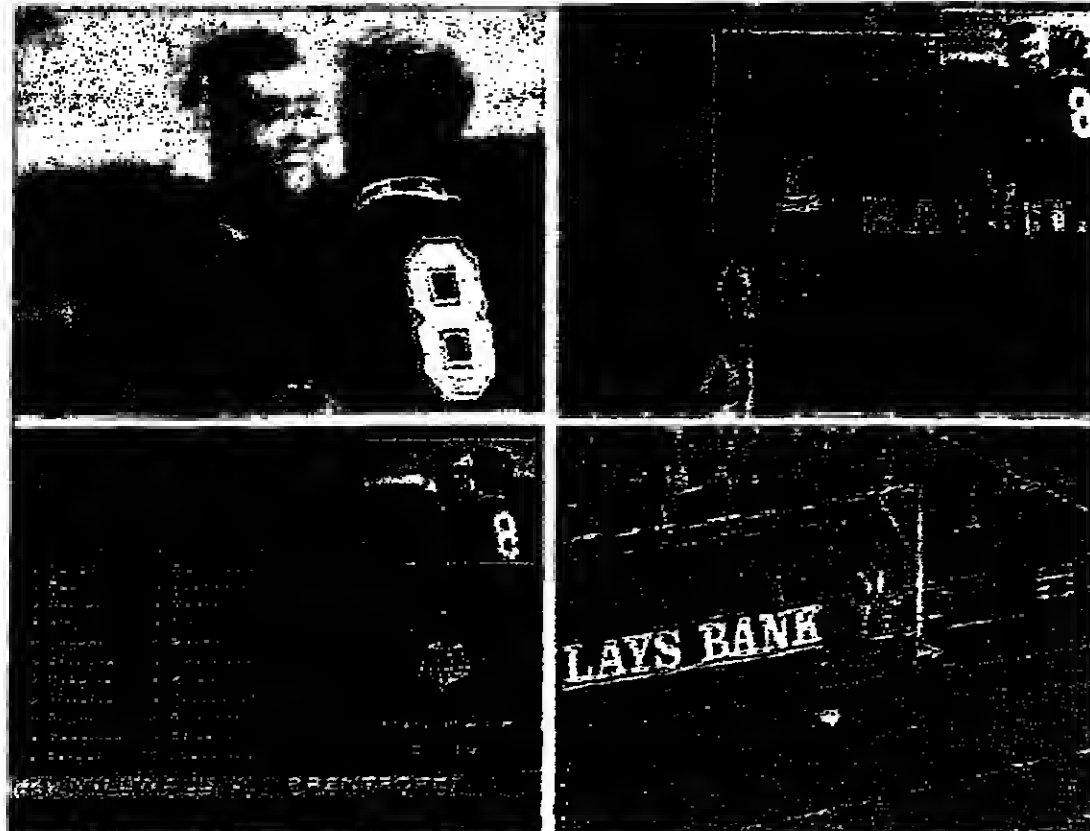
Recently, Tele-Communications, the biggest cable television operator in the United States, announced that it will start a digital transmission system in America next year and will order a trillion of the set-top decoders. Potentially the system will have the capacity for 500 channels.

Many of these channels will not carry programmes in the accepted sense. The possibilities include showing a popular film on several channels at once, but starting at 15 minute intervals — or sports events repeated during the day to fit in with when people want to watch them. Videotron, the cable operator behind the Videoway system, experimented with using three channels during the Olympics to transmit Eurosport coverage live and with four and eight hour delays.

Dr Roger Blake-way, the director of engineering for Videotron, is cautious when asked whether digital compression will quickly result in countless channels especially for Europe. "At the moment if you split a channel into ten digital ones the quality you get is less than that from a video cassette recorder." This is less of a problem in America, where picture quality is generally worse than in western Europe.

"Putting perhaps four channels into one is more likely and would be a big advantage," Dr Blake-way says. "There isn't a suitable product available at the moment but I think there will be in a year or two."

Once television channels become less valuable commodities there could be a host of service channels ranging, perhaps, from the "flower arranging channel" to the "local



Calling the shots: options offered to viewers of a football match by interactive television

car park surveillance channel". Research suggests, for example, that closed-circuit TV channels in apartment blocks, showing pictures from security cameras pointed at the main entrance, with who comes and goes, have surprisingly high viewing figures.

Other uses include home shopping, computer games that can be played against other viewers or, perhaps, a headline news channel that offers in-depth background to each story on separate channels. Channels may also be used just to show pretty pictures and provide a sort of moving wallpaper.

If hundreds of channels do arrive, then the common American technique of "channel surfing" — looking at what is on each channel before deciding which one to watch — will become impossible, so some sort of automatic selection system will be vital.

Once channels are digital they are also more suited to being integrated with computer power.

Hi-tech companies have already realised that there may be a new market on the way. The giant software company, Microsoft, for example, is working on a prototype "smart" television that will learn a viewer's habits and use the information to suggest those programmes that may interest the viewer.

Viewers will be able to instruct the smart television directly on what they like as well as letting it deduce likes and dislikes from what is actually watched — the more often the viewer watches television the quicker the machine picks up their preferences.

Smart sets will be able to make suggestions on what to watch in different ways, ranging from splitting the screen into a mosaic of those programmes currently showing what it thinks meet that individual's tastes to, perhaps, a listing of any films coming up

featuring the viewer's favourite actors or topics.

The television computer is not that far off. Microsoft's prototype uses a 386 chip, the same that drives most personal computers, and the Windows software package to control the mosaic option of dividing up the screen. Software is expected to become available next year and Microsoft hopes that American cable companies could become the first customers.

If there are hundreds of channels then it could also mean dozens of films being on offer at any one time in direct competition with the range at the local video rental store. But by then there will be competition from at least one American telephone company, which is planning to offer a dial-a-film service. Later this year, Bell Atlantic will begin testing the system in Northern Virginia. Viewers will be able to call up an electronic menu on a television screen and select from 100 videos for instant viewing.

Eye-to-eye with a wanted man

Witnesses can now help police to build a likeness of suspects by using a computer

Detectives in Northern Ireland, skilled in drawing detailed descriptions of armed attackers and other criminals from sometimes injured or shocked witnesses, are now equipped with a powerful new tool. The Royal Ulster Constabulary is the first force to adopt a portable electronic system of compiling facial likenesses to replace the Photofit.

The system, which has been tested by Hertfordshire police, can be taken by the interviewing detective to a witness's home or, as happened with a man injured in a sectarian shooting in Belfast last month, used at a hospital bedside.

The system, CD-Fit, was developed by the Edgeware software house Noble Campion to meet a Home Office need. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has demanded that Photofit be phased out and replaced by an easier to use electronic system by 1995.

The RUC has seven portable systems at a cost of £5,500 each. The system uses a laptop computer capable of driving an optional second screen, for the witness, coupled to a small printer.

A cognitive interview rarely takes less than two hours, gently coaxing information from people who are not always aware of all that they may have seen.

Details of a suspect's face — starting with shape, hair, eyes, mouth and whether young or old — are fed into the machine and can be modified as the picture evolves. The resulting printouts are black-and-white half-tones. Colour

is said to only complicate the process of getting a good likeness from the memory of, probably, a fleeting encounter.

The witness signs across a copy of the printout, to prevent the possibility of courtroom allegations later that police have tampered with identification evidence.

The first suspects to be arrested and charged in Northern Ireland after CD-Fit identifications are now awaiting trial. Its potential was displayed on its first day in RUC service in December.

An instructor was showing several detectives how to use it when an RUC officer came in, having seen a bomb being planted. Within an hour, using CD-Fit, he had produced a likeness of the bomber.

"We are getting likenesses which are related by witnesses as 90 per cent accurate," says Detective Chief Inspector Ian Auterson. "If you got a 50 per cent likeness with Photofit, you thought that was wonderful."

The system can also be used to help in the identification of the dead or critically injured. "A corpse can be photographed by a camera recording on a disc and the image fed in," Mr Auterson said. "The eyes can be electronically opened and, say, with a traffic accident victim, facial injuries removed. We then have an excellent printout for an identification appeal which can be sent through a modem."

At present only male databases are available, as only about 2 per cent of British crime involves women.

BOB RODWELL



A CD-Fit impression made of a man wanted for questioning in Belfast

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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OPERATIONS MANAGER — MATLOCK £35K PACKAGE

As the volumes of products being distributed from our Matlock head office increase the need to implement effective distribution systems, manage the warehouse, sales order processing, manufacturing, purchasing and customers services departments becomes a vital link between the suppliers the sales team and the customer. The successful applicant will appreciate the importance of these departments and be able to work closely with our managers to build an effective distribution system.

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Art of slipping double the amount of space onto a computer disc

Fancy a game of squash?

It has often been said that you cannot get something for nothing, but the chances are that whoever said that was not in the personal computer business. The latest popular giveaway by hard-pressed companies in the information technology field is compression and decompression software.

This software can allow computer users to virtually double the capacity of their storage systems. Using packages with names such as Stacker and Disk Doubler it is possible to store 80 megabytes of information on a 40 megabyte hard disc and 2.88 megabytes on a 1.44 megabyte floppy disc.

On average, these packages sell for less than £100 when purchased on their own, while buying a new, larger, hard disc can cost £300.

These programs accomplish their space saving by taking out all unnecessary information from every file. Compression or "disc doubling" systems, for example, often take all the spaces from a word-processed document and instead merely create a table of where the spaces are supposed to go when the document is decompressed.

Compression packages have been around for years, but what makes today's offerings a little different is that the compression and decompression happens as you use the system. Although customers can buy this software, the chances are that someone will want to give it to them over the next year if they buy other computer products.

IBM, for example, has been giving away copies of Stacker with some of its products, while Microsoft is to include a Stacker compatible disc-doubling system with its new version-six of the MS-DOS operating system, due to go on sale in April. These are just a



couple of examples. Literally dozens of other computer companies are bundling disc doubler products with their systems at the moment.

These compression packages have become particularly popular among users of portable computers for whom the task of upgrading to a larger hard disc can be even more expensive than for desktop computer users.

The growth in popularity of compression utilities has, however, been slow and cautious by computer industry standards — largely because early packages developed a reputation for not being particularly reliable.

Furthermore, since the act of compressing data actually scrambles it, users can face immense problems if the decompression part of the software does not work properly.

For this reason, producers of such packages include a warning that users should make a back-up copy of all the data on a hard disc before installing it so that important information will not be lost if there are any problems.

There is, unfortunately, another price to pay for using these instant packages: they can significantly slow down the performance of a computer,

particularly if it is not very powerful in the first place. This becomes especially evident when using graphically-based software such as desktop publishing, computer aided design or the Windows operating environment. If a personal computer is already a little slow when running these applications, it can seem a great deal slower when using a compression package.

Most new personal computers, however, are not hampered by lack of power and can handle the degradation in speed caused by the use of such packages.

With the amount of disc space demanded by most modern applications, it is virtually certain that the use of compression packages will continue to grow in popularity. Just one typical Windows application, for example, can need between 10 and 15 megabytes out of an average 80 megabyte hard disc.

GEOFF WHEELWRIGHT

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Presentation to IT award winners

The closing date of the competition run by *The Sunday Times* and Andersen Consulting to recognise effective uses of information technology has now passed, and a wide variety of interesting entries have been received. Winners of the IT for Business Excellence Awards will be those organisations which have used technology to support clearly defined business strategies. Technology will have been the driver of enhanced processes, and there will have been a commitment to ensure the understanding and acceptance of the employees who use it.

There are separate awards for organisations above and below £100m turnover per annum, along with special categories for innovation, the best management of change and the best application of IT by students in higher education.

The *Sunday Times* / Andersen Consulting IT for Business Excellence Awards 1993 will be presented by Edward Leigh MP, Under Secretary of State and the Department of Trade and Industry and Minister of Technology. The Awards dinner will take place at the Savoy Hotel, London on Wednesday 24 March 1993. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 7.15pm, followed by dinner in the Lancaster Room at 7.45pm.

There are some tickets available for the awards dinner, and they can be obtained using the coupon below.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING THE SUNDAY TIMES

Please send me _____ IT for Business Excellence Awards dinner tickets @ £45 each. I enclose a cheque payable to *The Sunday Times* for £_____ (Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque). Guests will generally be seated at tables of 10.

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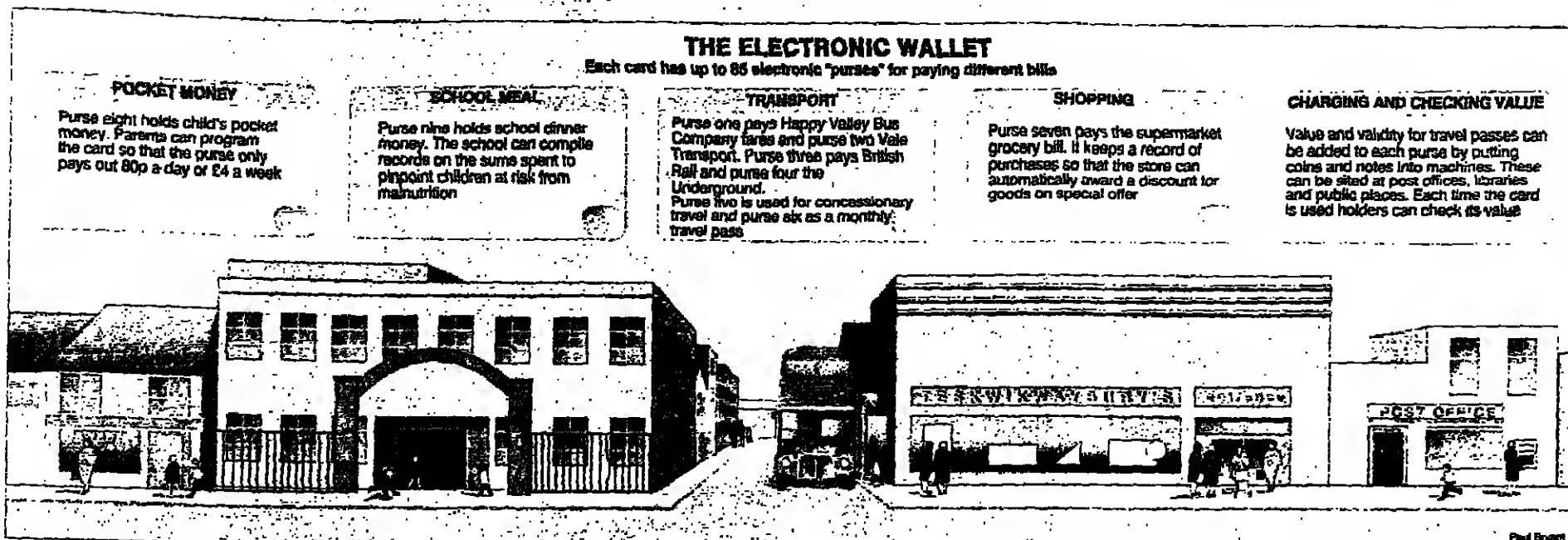
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPOINTMENTS

continue on page 30

A plastic card which unlocks the doors to community services is on trial, says Nick Nuttall



Switching to the card that is the key to the future

After a faltering start in Britain, smart cards appear to be about to make inroads into the public transport networks of the main cities.

The plastic devices, which resemble credit cards, each carry a microchip with the processing power of a personal computer, allowing holders to pay for goods and services in new ways.

Personal information can also be carried, which can be linked to the right to concessionary fares and special permits, and to record the card's use.

An estimated 260 million smart cards are in operation worldwide but in the UK the numbers are believed to be just over two million, mainly in the pay television market.

Unlike conventional credit and debit cards, the devices can be charged up with funds, or have concessionary fares encoded onto them by machines in post offices, libraries, stations and public places, or by a transport authority at the time of issue.

Conventional smart cards, such as those used on buses at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, have to be removed from a wallet and slid through a reader device which checks the card's validity or debits a fare.

The new technology uses radio, allowing the cards to be read at a distance. Supporters of contactless smart cards claim that this is a significant advantage especially on public transport where many passengers will be the elderly, young children or mothers.

Instead of fumbling for money, or inserting a conventional smart card, travellers can wave the new device as they board a bus, tram or train. There is no chance of the card-reader to become jammed. Studies indicate that, in a congested city, the technology might increase the average speed of a bus from 8.1 to 8.7 miles an hour by getting people on board faster.

John Baker, the managing director of GEC Card Technology in Walsall, the company that makes the cards, says: "This is actually a spectacular improvement in transport terms, the equivalent of billions of pounds in road improvements."

He says the cards, which work with equipment made by an Australian/Danish venture called AES Scanpoint, were less open to fraud than traditional plastic cards because only the loaded value could be stolen and because the cards are not linked to a bank or credit account.

At the heart of the cards are up to 85 "electronic purses", each of which can be linked to reading machines owned by a transport company, supermarket or any organisation. When holders load the cards, by feeding coins or notes in a machine, or by debiting their bank account over the telephone, they can choose which purse to fill.

One "purse" could be used as a monthly bus pass and another for a concessionary fare on the underground or British Rail.

Purse number eight, for example, could be used for cash fares, with the passenger requesting a 90 pence ride.

with the radio reader debiting the amount rather like a phone card.

Parents could designate, say, purse 15 on their child's card for school meals with another for pocket money.

The card could also be programmed so that only 80 pence of the pocket money purse can be accessed by a child each day.

Full details of the world's biggest introduction of the contactless technology, due to take place in the

An estimated 260 million smart cards are in operation worldwide

autumn in Greater Manchester, were given yesterday at Smart Card 93 taking place at Wembley, London.

The first phase is earmarked for the Bolton area, where cards are to be issued to a group of elderly travellers and schoolchildren, before the system is expanded across the county.

The local transport authority is to spend £10 million issuing 700,000 cards and installing special electronic readers on 2,700 buses and at over 130 Metro-Link and railway stations.

About 800 outlets across the county will have the special machines installed in which the cards can be charged. By employing this technology, more than £1 million a year may be saved.

Bus inspectors will be issued with portable inspection readers that check the validity of the card and, if needed, issue a ticket paid for with the value stored on the card.

London Buses are planning a pilot scheme in the Harrow area this year using over 150 buses, and the project is being monitored closely by London Underground officials. At least two other authorities in Yorkshire are studying similar projects.

Bill Tyson, the director of Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, said yesterday that the scheme opened up numerous possibilities beyond transport.

Children could use the cards not just for travel but for paying for school dinners. Schools could in turn monitor the diets of pupils perhaps to identify those at risk from unhealthy eating.

Discussions have also taken place with at least one supermarket so that

shoppers could use the card to pay for goods. The store might have a new way of tracking customer purchasing trends.

The cards could also be used to build loyalty by being programmed to orchestrate special offers such as buy ten items, get one free. If someone, for example, bought ten packs one month it could be recorded on the card with the eleventh pack automatically credited to the customer.

The Manchester transport executive is examining the possibility of issuing council officials with portable versions of the smart card-readers for the collection of rents to try to reduce muggings.

Mr Tyson says that they had decided to use a type of card which cannot be read by just waving it a few inches from the reader, as surveys in the region have indicated that people would like to know that a transaction had taken place.

Instead, passengers will put the card on the reader which triggers a noise or light indicating that it has been read and a fare taken.

Other features linked with the system include a new electronic console which will allow the driver to look up a destination and its fare in seconds.

Mr Baker says that one of the main motivations driving the interest in the technology has been its ability to ensure that privatised bus companies operating in a city are correctly recompensed.

At present bus companies operating in the same area have lengthy disputes with local authorities over just how many concessionary fares they have carried.

By allocating a "purse" to each of the bus firms, operators will have a precise daily record of the type of passengers they have carried.

ONLINE

Speaking in tones

FORGET letting your fingers do the walking. The American telephone company, Nynex, has unveiled a service that lets subscribers dial a number simply by speaking a name into the receiver.

No special equipment is needed by the customer. The voice travels to a speech recogniser at a building where telephone calls are switched. This matches the name to a speech pattern for that name programmed in by the customer.

Once the match is made, a software program dials the number. A market test among 400 New York-based customers will begin next month.

Rescue bid

THE French government is preparing to put slightly more than two billion French francs (£250 million) into the ailing Bull computer company.

The funding would take the total amount of state cash made available to Bull within three years to FF6 billion.

The management of Bull has been pressing for months for an injection of funds or even an increase in share capital.

Agree to agree

SONY and Matsushita Electric are negotiating a common standard for future digital videocassette recorders (VCRs), to avoid repeating a video battle they had a decade ago between the Betamax and VHS formats for analogue VCRs.

Another reason to cooperate is the worry that, by the time the digital VCR market matures in the late 1990s, it could be superseded by a new, more advanced product - perhaps a recordable compact disc with video squeezed on using digital compression technology.

Small is best

FOURTEEN new mini-computers being produced by IBM will perform an average of 35 per cent better than its previous AS-400, the company says.

Mid-range computers generally sell in the range of anything from £10,000 to £1 million, and IBM has

about 22 per cent of the market.

Analysts say IBM maintains a slight edge because of the numerous existing software programs that are written specifically for IBM machines and that are not compatible with rival products.

Fade to blue

ELECTRIC sunglasses, which turn dark blue at the touch of a button, will go on sale in Japan at the beginning of April at a cool 48,000 yen (about £280) a pair.

Electrochromatic devices in the lenses change colour when an electric charge is emitted by tiny batteries fitted to the sunglasses.

Photochromatic sunglasses that darken automatically in bright sunlight change colour only gradually. The new glasses, for sale only in Japan, take nine seconds to change from clear to grey-blue and only four to fade back again, says Nikon, the company selling them.

Next please

CANON is to take over Next Computer's hardware design centre while Next concentrates on software.

Canon invested \$85 million in the California-based computer maker in 1989. Next, which was begun by the Apple Computer co-founder, Steven Jobs, in 1985, has been struggling financially.

While Next computers have been overtaken in speed by rivals such as Sun Microsystems and IBM, Next has one of the most advanced software systems available. The company is presently rewriting the software for IBM-compatible computers.

No charge

A SWEDISH crime syndicate stole thousands of mobile telephones, reprogrammed them so that the bills would be sent to somebody else and then sold them on the black market as "no-charge phones".

The fraud came to light when some mobile phone subscribers received bills of more than £50,000.

The stolen telephones had been reprogrammed with the aid of a computer program copied from Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson, police said.



The Number Master from BT. More than just a bleeper

Paging's come a long way since the simple bleeper. A BT Number Master pager gives you all the simplicity and convenience of being in constant contact, but also gives you the telephone number of the person who wants to talk to you.

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number direct to your pager screen. By knowing who is calling, you can prioritise your return calls and organise your time.

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Present turns to past

Some time in 1996, five young people will become freemen of the City of London as the first graduates of one of the computer industry's more exotic training schemes.

The five are apprentices attached to the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. Formed seven years ago, this is the hundredth and most recent livery company on the City of London's rolls.

While apprenticeships and workshop companies fit easily together in the imagination, it tends to be against a backdrop of gas lamps and horse-drawn vehicles.

Why would a late-20th century industry such as computing deliberately set out to revive the forms of the distant past?

Not so distant, argues Robin Laidlaw, the company secretary, who was himself an apprentice engineer before embarking on an information technology (IT) career that took him to the top of his profession at British Gas. "The old guilds and livery companies were responsible for standards, quality, education and training," he says. "We have tried to meet some of the old objectives and bring back the tradition of the apprentice."

The worshipful company has been described as "the British

David Guest reports on a worshipful company that is bringing back the tradition of the apprentice



Computer Society in drag". It is hard to say which organisation this flatters less. The point, however, is that the company's self-conscious traditionalism does strike some in the industry as slightly suspect.

"Our mission is to promote the use of information technology to help the City of London maintain its competitive position," Mr Laidlaw says. "The Lord Mayor regards us as a modern guild totally relevant to the contemporary needs of the City. If you look at us and some of the other newer companies — such as engineers, constructors, architects and air pilots — they are very working guilds. And it is a fact that the City is not going to be able to operate without the extensive use of information technology."

The worshipful company's apprentices were enrolled last October in a deliberately old-fashioned formal ceremony. Subsequently, ceremonial gave way to more mundane considerations. For example, the apprenticeship may be for four years, but it is renewable on an annual basis. "We have to be flexible and pragmatic," Mr Laidlaw says. "None of our major companies is going to want to drag a youngster through the courts."

A liveryman of the company takes overall responsibility for each apprentice and a "mentor" in the employer's company is appointed to look after each one on a day-to-day basis. The training follows City and Guilds lines in conforming to recognised IT methods.

On graduation, the apprentices have a nationally recognised qualification. They also become freemen of the worshipful company and hence of the City of London. But for the Reform Bill of 1832, they would have been halfway to having exclusive voting rights in the election of MPs for the City of London.

One criticism levelled at the worshipful company is that it is top-heavy with people whose careers have been in the supply side of the industry. The same might be said about the apprenticeship scheme.

All five individuals involved — four men and one woman — work for suppliers of computer equipment and services. Two are from Group Bull and one each from ICL, Logica and Services. "This would concern me if it were to continue," Mr Laidlaw says, "but we would like to get major users involved."

In the relatively short history of computing, IT companies and those buying their equipment have often been unsuccessful in meeting the need for skilled staff. Until the recession, the amount of training fell far short of the industry's annual requirement for 20,000 new recruits. Companies operating their own training schemes were increasingly sensitive about the investment that training represented,



Signing up: an apprentice enrolls for the Information Technologists' livery company scheme

and there were mutterings about job-hopping.

"If you look at information technology, there are generally two levels of entry: university graduates, and salesmen who deal in computers as commodities," Mr Laidlaw says. "In between, there are a lot of youngsters not interested in sales-oriented careers, but who

haven't had the opportunity to go to university, and it is them we are looking at."

"In the absence of government-sponsored schemes, any entry-level training is valuable," says Rick Firth, the National Computing Centre's director of training and consultancy. "At the moment, the industry is losing more people than

it is taking on, but it won't always be that way."

Usually, a trainee programmer with a company is expected to be productive in a matter of months. The worshipful company aims to produce information technologists of greater competence than the average computer graduate after four years. It might take longer, but

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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DANCE page 32
Agnes Oaks: elegant as
Odette/Odile in the new
English National Ballet
staging of Swan Lake

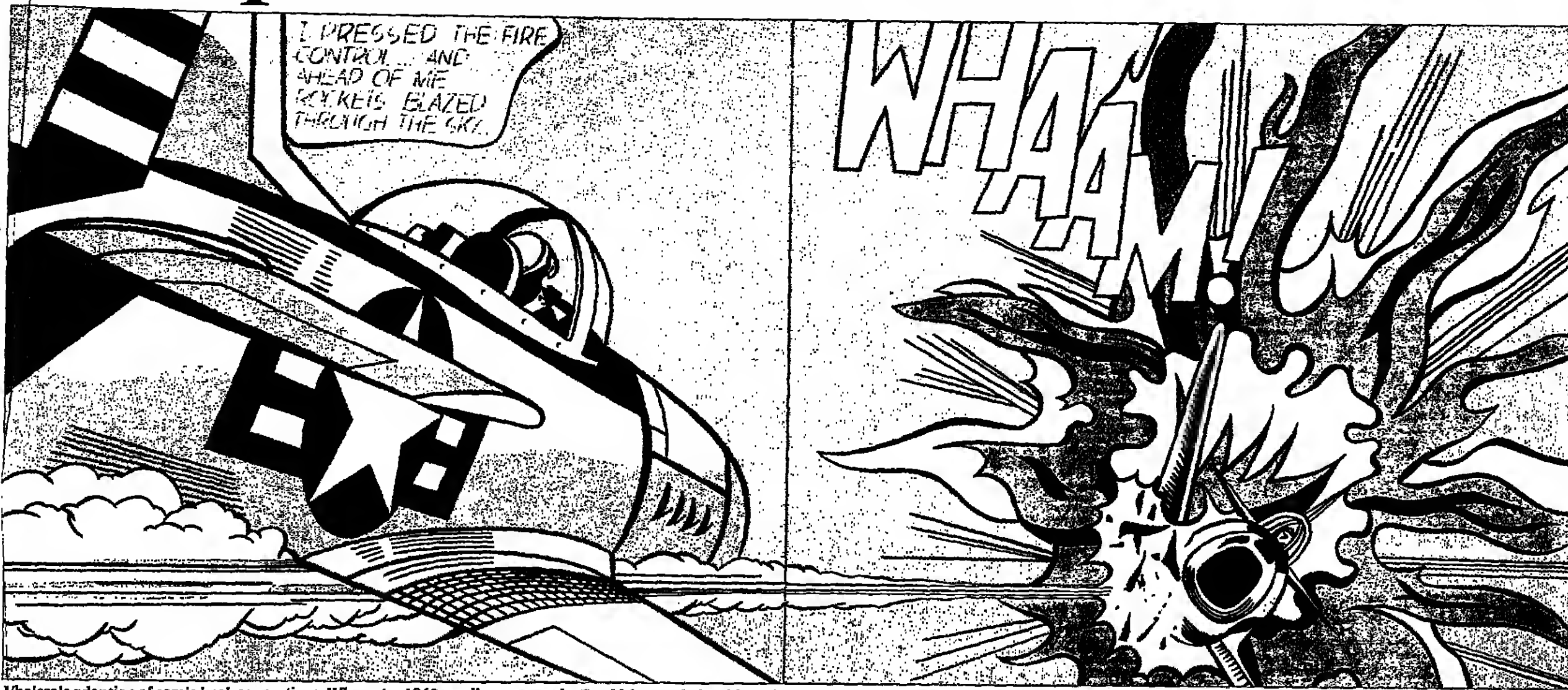
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Christa Wolf: the novelist
from the former East
Germany on her links
with the secret police



Richard Cork on Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein, now the subject of a Tate Gallery Liverpool retrospective

Strips to tease the establishment



Wholesale adoption of comic-book conventions: *Whaam!*, a 1963 acrylic on canvas by Roy Lichtenstein in which "the anonymous pilot watches his target explode with sky-shattering force." Courtesy of the Trustees of the Tate Gallery

Looking his rockets at an enemy plane, the anonymous fighter-pilot in Roy Lichtenstein's *Whaam!* watches his target explode with sky-shattering force. But he could equally well be the man who painted this picture, for Lichtenstein was accused in the early 1960s of conducting a sustained attack on the values upheld by his many detractors. They were incensed by his wholesale adoption of comic-book conventions, purloining both style and subjects from material widely regarded as too vulgar for High Art.

In their enraged eyes, he was guilty of taking these trashy images and blowing them up to a perversely inflated size. Comic strips had no right to hang on Manhattan gallery walls, and the fact that Lichtenstein found buyers for his jocular work only increased the general vituperation.

Now, almost exactly 30 years after it was produced, the monumental *Whaam!* presides effortlessly over the first room of the Tate Gallery Liverpool's Lichtenstein retrospective. He will be 70 in October, and enjoys the status of a Grand Old Man in the American painting pantheon. His early Pop pictures are today more likely to inspire affection than disgust.

Whaam! itself has acquired the aura of age, slightly dulling the original brashness and leaving game on the edges where its two canvases are joined in the composition's centre.

So we have difficulty in imagining just how debased Lichtenstein's art once seemed. "Is He The Worst Artist In The US?" asked a *Life* headline in 1964, and many reviewers could not forgive him for betraying the legacy of Abstract Expressionism. Pollock and de Kooning had staked everything on the intensity of individual emotion, conveyed through turbulent, beefy brushstrokes and a sublime disregard for observable reality.

Lichtenstein jettisoned their elevated way of seeing, apparently without hesitation. He replaced the

cult of personal mark-making with a machine finish, borrowing thick outlines and blatant colour from comic-books and spattering his images with the dots used in the Ben Day reproduction process.

He even had the cheek to produce, in the mid-1960s, a spectacular series of paintings which isolated the archetypal Abstract Expressionist brushstrokes and expanded them to monstrous, overblown dimensions. Their rhetoric was mocked with cool, dandified precision. Yellow *Brushstroke* in the Tate show maroons its subject on an arid expanse of grey dots, occasionally besmirched by custard-like blobs dribbling down from the main sweep of paint.

The truth is, though, that the artist who conducted these poised, deadpan raids on the older generation had not always been so assured. Already 40 by the time *Whaam!* was painted with such panache in 1963, he had struggled for well over a decade before then to define his mature identity.

In 1954 Robert Rosenblum complained that the young Lichtenstein, then painting cowboy and Indian themes, was too heavily indebted to "the Braque contingent of the School of Paris." Rosenblum concluded that "caution and good taste characterise his personality."

So a huge effort of will must have been required for Lichtenstein to break free and proclaim his own rebellious priorities.

I would have welcomed the chance to see something, at least, of his work from the 1950s. However tentative those paintings may be, their presence here would enable us to gauge the size of the leap he had to make into the confidence of Pop.

Even the first exhibit, a small canvas called *Red Flowers*, suggests that certainty had not been fully achieved by 1961. The ubiquitous dots in the background are unevenly applied, freerhand and sometimes smudged. As for the black contours running around petals,

foliage and vase, they look crude compared with the bravura outlines deployed in *Whaam!*

The diffidence in *Red Flowers* is part of his charm now. But Lichtenstein must have been determined to banish any sign of hesitancy in his subsequent work. He also made sure that motifs as traditional as this lower-piece gave way to more mundane, provocative subjects.

Although the yellow pyramidal form in *Baked Potato* may bear an initial resemblance to Cézanne's *Mont Saint-Victoire*, it soon becomes recognisable as a banal knob of butter melting in the jacket. And by the time he painted *Mustard* on

'Lichtenstein is a Grand Old Man in American painting. We can hardly imagine how debased his art once seemed'

White in 1963, the entire presentation had grown more blatant.

The dots are now faultlessly regimented as they spread across the tipped-up plate. They even flash wittily across the knife-blade wielded by the woman with pointed finger-nails. The whole painting is impeccably stylish, and Lichtenstein enlivens the rubbery heap of mustard with white, wavy highlights dancing across its surface.

If he was aware of any internal conflict between his espousal of Pop and his previous involvement with the School of Paris, he certainly did not show it. But the *Eddie Diptych* does dramatise a struggle in the flaxen-haired daughter's mind, between "Mom and Dad's viewpoint" and her own infatuation with Eddie.

The main image shows the girl fiercely rejecting her mother, as she stares out at us with an expression resolute enough to confirm that her heart has been won by teenage

romance. From now on, Lichtenstein's energies were likewise devoted to the style he had developed with comic-books' liberating help.

Whaam! marks the moment when he celebrated his new-found language on the most flamboyant scale imaginable. The flames erupting from the enemy plane are a *tour de force*, showing Lichtenstein's flair as an effervescent manipulator of line.

But the painting's meaning remains elusive. On one level, *Whaam!* appears to revel in the adrenalin-inducing thrill of the kill. It seems to endorse the idea of war as a gun-gungo adventure, with America as the Comic-book-bashing victor. On a quite different level, though, the painting's child-like refusal to confront the bitter reality of battle and death is ironically exposed.

Lichtenstein must have seen enough gruesome warfare, serving with the US Army in Europe during the 1940s, to know that *Whaam!* promotes a callow fantasy far removed from tragic fact. He also realised, however, that the fantasy was very potent, and his adroitly marshalled painting is alive with the disconcerting glamour of destruction.

His underlying attitude is no easier to pin down in the sequence based on heroic giants of modernism. Mondrian and Picasso were subjected to the Lichtenstein treatment as early as 1964, while his involvement with Pop subjects was still intense.

Are these pictures affectionate homages to De Stijl and Cubism, or distancing devices intended to prove that even the most revolutionary moments in 20th-century art have been tamed by mass reproduction? The screening dots applied to a large rectangle in the Mondrian, and several forms running through the Picasso, imply that both paintings are more familiar as postcards or glossy illustrations than as original works of art.

From then on, no modern movement was safe from Lichtenstein's omnivorous gaze. An *Arco*, *Purism*, *Funerism* and *Surrealism*, all of them fell prey to his passion for crisp, simplifying reinterpretation. At times he would break off, however, and produce a more personal, enigmatic series, such as the tantalising *Mirror* paintings of 1970, which were animated by shimmering shafts of light rather than identifiable reflections.

But the preoccupation with cannibalising past styles in art soon returned, eventually generating the suspicion that Lichtenstein was now indulging in nostalgia for early modernism's pioneering spirit.

However handsomely organised later canvases like *Purist Painting with Bottle* may appear, they lack his earlier sense of vigorous engagement with contemporary life. After a while the incessant quotations from other painters become mannered and tedious, the work of an artist who has retreated into history.

At some point, Lichtenstein lost his appetite for everyday urban existence. In his Pop heyday, he was capable of taking even the most quotidian subject and transforming it with a clear-cut grandeur worthy of Léger. But in recent years he is more likely to produce a variation on one of Léger's own paintings.

Only the final exhibit hints at a return to his old obsessions. Donald Duck bursts through a maze of confusing reflections, as if to insist on the importance of zest, wit and optimism. But his eyes have turned into dollar signs, and he seems nothing more than a standardised, sure-fire generator of mega-profits in a world Lichtenstein would now prefer to avoid.

Roy Lichtenstein continues at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock Liverpool L3 4BB (051-709 0507) until April 18. Tues-Sun 10am-6pm. Closed Mon. Admission £1, concessions 50p. Family ticket £2.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

● **ROBERT RYMAN:** "White painting is my medium," says Ryman, and so it has been since his beginnings in New York in the 1950s. This retrospective of 75 works from the last 40 years shows, however, the extraordinary variety of texture, feeling and materials he has been able to introduce into a bit of basic white.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until April 25.

● **MELIES:** Usually tagged "the father of film fantasy", Georges Méliès began as a theatrical magician, but early realised the potential of camera trickery to enhance his magical effects. This exhibition illustrates his original designs, reconstructs his studio and reveals how many of his tricks were done.

Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, SE1 (071-401 2636). Daily, 10am-6pm, until June 12.

South Bank, SE1 (071-401 2636). Daily, 10am-6pm, until June 12.

● **FORCES SWEETHEARTS:** For anybody who was alive in the second world war, and many who were not, the term "forces sweetheart" conjures up at once the sound of Vera Lynn singing "We'll Meet Again" and the sight of Betty Grable looking over her right shoulder as she posed in high heels and a one-piece bathing suit. Of course there was more to it than that, as this exhibition carefully explains. But the images, from the first world war to the Gulf, remain infinitely suggestive.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (071-416 5000). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Oct 15. Admission to museum £3.50, concessions £2.50.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

TELEVISION REVIEW: a new series about our prisons by Roger Graef, maker of the revelatory *Police*

No way out if everybody is backing into a corner

Ten years ago Roger Graef's probing camera set new standards for television documentaries with a compelling *Police* series based in Thames Valley. Graef put aside any attempt at replicating Hollywood crime fiction or jolly Dixon of Dock Green in real life. Instead of being beguiled by the traditional images of crime, crime busters and villains he focused on the inner workings of the police force and its staff. The frank, fly-on-the-wall techniques uncovered the inadequacy of police handling of rape victims, leading to revolution in police work which is still rippling through the service.

The success of *Police* in unlocking the door on a previously taboo area — taboo as far as the police were concerned — encouraged a whole generation of documentaries in which cameras have followed murder detectives, Customs investigators and Scotland Yard's flying squad officers, talked to convicted murderers in their cells and visited

Broadmoor. The great estates of the barons of law and order are no longer surrounded by barbed wire.

One of them is the prison service where prison officers, the Home Office and managers continue to battle over possession. Last night the first of three parts of Graef's latest offering, *Turning the Screw*, watched Wandsworth prison as officers and the governors squared up to each other over reform.

In Wandsworth, now 140 years old, the prisoners get one shower and one change of clothes a week, the workshops and hospital wards are closed and the men are in their cells for up to 23 hours a day. Someone describes it as a "national sin bin." Just getting out of the cells

which begged prosperity in the 1960s or 1970s.

Certainly a veteran of oldtime trade union affairs would be perfectly at home in the scenario unfolding before the camera. There is the tough managing director keen on change, the smooth deputy and the personnel officer trying to maintain a dialogue between the sides. The opponents are officials from one of the smallest but strongest unions left in the country.

There is a danger the viewer will be lost in the miasma of officialese but the stakes are high. The prison officers claim that they will be overruled and could well face another *Strangeways*-like riot, while the governor maintains that

to go to the toilet can lead to a violent confrontation. The governor wants to increase the amount of free time the prisoners get out of their cells by changing working patterns. The prison officers argue what is needed is more manpower.

At the core of the growing dispute is a mere three-and-a-half hours extra time for prisoners out of cells per week. Graef lingers too long on the tedium of a low-intensity confrontation which sounds so much like one of those traditional industrial disputes

in the 1990s it is time the prisoners got out of their cells.

Whatever next? exclaims one of the prison officers: the prisoners will start demanding the time as a right. There is nothing in it for us, cries another. In the governor's office they believe the men are simply afraid of having to confront their charges more directly. Be diplomatic today, one of the staff advises the governor, a man who acknowledges that he has a short fuse.

While the combatants circle each other the camera roams, offering shots of broken toilets. The microphone picks up the constant drip of broken pipes and the prisoners call to each other in the twilight.

Graef offers no shattering revelations this time but tells a story of decay, inertia and fear which explains a great deal about why so many of Britain's prisons have yet to break out of the last century.

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LITERATURE: Anne McElvoy on East German writers' contacts with the secret police



The melancholy Christa Wolf and the maverick Heiner Müller: leading figures in East German literature who seemed to embody courage and integrity, until their links with the Stasi were revealed

Collaborators behind the lines?

Once upon a time in an unhappy country behind a high wall there were two literary figures who seemed to embody courage and integrity when they, like a lot of other commodities, were in short supply. The first was Christa Wolf, a quietly engaging novelist who charted the decline of an ideal in fine, melancholy prose and the effect of that disillusionment on her countrymen. The other was Heiner Müller, an ill-socialised, heavy-drinking maverick who produced disturbing post-modernist plays about the senselessness of history enlivened by linguistic brilliance, bizarre stagecraft and a hangman's sense of humour.

The Berlin Wall and the East German state have crumbled to dust, leaving the entrails of its regime exposed to the scrutiny of the file-combers who have since meted out moral verdicts of a thoroughness most of us are spared until the Day of Judgment. Thus it has emerged that both Wolf and Müller, the beauty and the beast of the East's literati, were classified as informers to the Stasi security service.

Müller's file was leaked to the press last month prompting Wolf, currently in self-imposed exile at the Getty Institute in California, to

own up herself to a brief period of collusion between 1959-62 when she was in her early thirties.

The Wolf-Müller revelations have shaken a society which seemed to have developed immunity to shock after two years of forced confrontation with the omnipresence of the Stasi. Both were household names outside the reading and theatre-going classes. Both were highly rated in the West, which in a country possessed of a vast inferiority complex was of particular significance. Both had called for reform at the key demonstration in East Berlin which hastened the regime's collapse and that of the Wall five days later.

The Stasi file held on Wolf contained 42 volumes. Her influence in the peace and ecology movement and the help she gave young writers in trouble worried them. In 1990 she published *What Remains* (published in English by Virago this spring) chronicling her own experience of being under surveillance.

How then to greet the news that she had once been an informant herself? The initial response was disbelief followed by bitter disappointment. They are responses that I share. I have exchanged letters with her for some years. Her work absorbed me at university and I

was a neighbour in the Pankow suburb of East Berlin. To see her familiar neat handwriting in an informant's file, and discover that she chose for herself the pseudonym Margarete — what chilling reverberations, from Goethe's *Faust* to the golden-haired German figure in Celan's *Death Fugue* — under which to pass on information about colleagues to the men in 'leather jackets' was distressing.

It is not so much the collusion which bothers her admirers but her hesitancy in admitting to it. Once again, Germany is faced with the divergence of literature and morality. The Brecht syndrome of a good poet appended to a weak character troubles a country which in the postwar years has elevated its writers to the role of high priests, in which the judgment of literature has been coupled to moral approbation. Perhaps fear of the loss of such admiration was one reason Wolf kept her secret.

Then there is the matter of how we should read the work of writers who have suppressed a significant

truth about their experience. One of the most powerful themes of Wolf's writing is the individual's fear of his or her own subjectivity. "The difficulty," as she wrote in *The Quest for Christa T.*, "of saying I." She wrote the tale of her own life, *A Model Childhood*, around the task of excavating memory and the need to confront the past in order to understand the present, but was unable to plumb the darker reaches of her own memory. Are these sentiments rendered less credible because of the revelation of her own fallibility in this area or more so in that they fill in the subconscious background of much of her writing: the use of pseudonyms for characters, the tentative tone of exposition, the agonised dissections of the self in which her characters engage?

Interviewed in Los Angeles last week, she said that her co-operation stemmed from the "dogmatic and uncritical beliefs of the time [the Cold War] from which I freed myself only slowly". She admits that she suppressed this period as her recognition of the flaws in state

socialism grew throughout the Sixties. "There was a shame-hurdle and it was very high," she says. "A classic process of self-suppression was at work inside me."

These psychological mechanisms were accompanied by a resistance common among the East German intelligentsia to the high-handedness of West Germany's reckoning with her country and its legacy. "There is less and less opportunity for honest and complete discussion of the past. The old German tendency towards self-righteousness, towards mercilessness in dealing with opponents, the bigoted demand for the fulfilment of an abstract and rigorous moral code — always directed at someone else — is manifesting itself." She does not deny that the result has often been "infantile or evasive reactions" on the part of the judged.

Indeed the discussion on her own case has run on predictable lines. West Germany's conservative critics like the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's* critical doyen Marcel Reich-Ranicki adopt a judgmental tone: "Courage and firmness of character are not the outstanding hallmarks of the esteemed author Christa Wolf."

Bating defensively for the East, Klaus Kreidler in *Freitag* counters that the current hysteria is

a product of "an undifferentiating TV-culture in which aesthetic, morality, political expediency and gossip set the parameters of discussion."

Müller is a very different case, the comic counterpart to the tragic fall of Wolf. He invokes the post-modernist get-out clause for collusion saying that as a playwright he was entitled to "treat everything as material" and denying that merely talking to the Stasi is a subject on which moral pronouncements can be made at all: "There were hundreds of good, bad and indifferent reasons for doing it."

This may be an evasion but it does contain the germ of an idea which should exercise those who sit in judgment how "guilty" is someone who chats with oppressors and what are the degrees of blame to be attached to differing motives — naive dogmatism in Wolf's case, a desire to play games with his political environment in Müller's?

He is unrepentant. But she, toppled from the pedestal onto which she was hoisted by a public desperate for honesty in a world of lies, has become the victim of one of her own maxims: "The past is not dead. It is not even past. It is we who cut ourselves off from it and pretend we do not know it."

ARTS BRIEFING

In with a small chance

AMID all the attention focused on the British contenders for Oscars — with *Howards End* and *The Crying Game* picking up 15 nominations between them — one small item went unnoticed. Kenneth Branagh's film, *Swan Song*, has been nominated in the Best Short Film category. The film is a 25-minute adaptation of the Chekhov playlet and features Sir John Gielgud as a melancholic aging actor who, long after the theatre housing his latest play has closed for the night, wanders onto the stage to relive his great thespian past.

Swan Song is not Branagh's first Oscar nomination: his 1989 film, *Henry V*, was nominated for three Oscars, including Best Actor (Branagh) and Best Director (Branagh again). It eventually picked up an award for costume designer Phyllis Dalton.

THE Theatres Trust, the body which exists to promote the protection of theatres, has recommended approval of the Royal Opera House plans to develop the James Street corner in Covent Garden. The trust, asked for an opinion by the ROH, says its main concern is that stage, equipment and servicing are urgently updated. The controversial development plans are seen as opening the way for these crucial improvements. However, the trust questions "whether and when" the project will be completed. And it urges the ROH not to trim the scheme further: "It would be absurdly wasteful to whittle away quality of provision in the name of economy... the Trust regards the funding and completion of a first-class scheme as the only sensible way forward."

On a serious note

DUDLEY Moore, once an Oxford organ scholar, makes a rare return to Britain as a serious concert musician on April 5. Moore will be the soloist at the Festival Hall, playing a Mozart piano concerto and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the London Schools Symphony Orchestra. The concert raises money for Action Research and the Foundation for Young Musicians.

Last chance...

MEMORIES of the imperishable and much-missed Zoot Sims are evoked by the playing of Spike Robinson, the American tenor saxophonist whose residency at Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071-439 0747) ends tomorrow. Robinson, who made his first records more than 40 years ago, spent the following decades playing occasional jazz gigs while making a steady living in engineering: he finally returned to music full-time in the 1980s. At Ronnie Scott's Robinson appears on the same bill as the cool young singer Claire Martin, one of the outstanding British prospects for the Nineties.

ROCK: David Sinclair talks to harmonica player Jerry Portnoy, a key member of Eric Clapton's new band

No complaints about playing the blues

Eric Clapton is the most revered English guitarist in the history of rock. But although it is his name on the E22 tickets, Clapton will not be alone when he takes the stage tomorrow for the first of 12 shows at the Albert Hall. For nearly three weeks before-hand, in a secret location just outside London, a crack team of backing musicians has been rehearsing with Clapton, perfecting the arrangements and polishing the performances of the songs he will play.

This year's shows are given

over exclusively to the blues, and this is reflected in Clapton's choice of a lean but stellar five-piece band, incorporating guitarist Andy Fairweather Low (formerly of Amen Corner, and a Clapton stalwart), bassist Donald "Duck" Dunn (of the original Blues Brothers and Booker T and the MGs), drummer Richie Hayward (of Little Feat) and keyboard player Chris Stainton (from Joe Cocker's band).

But no serious blues group is complete without its harmonica

player, and setting the seal on this year's line-up is Jerry Portnoy, a veteran of Muddy Waters' band and a musician steeped in the authentic Chicago blues.

Portnoy was born in Chicago in 1943 and brought up in the vicinity of the Maxwell Street market, where his father owned a rug store. There, among the haggling customers and traders, many of the original blues players who had drifted to Chicago from the south would set up and play for whatever loose change was dropped at their feet.

Even so, it was only at the age of 25, and after failed attempts to master several other instruments, that Portnoy discovered his aptitude for playing the harmonica. Just five years after first picking up the instrument, he was off touring with Muddy Waters.

"For a harmonica player that was the top job in the world. He was a great band leader, the Duke Ellington of the blues in the sense that he turned out a lot of stars and a lot of band leaders and people who went on to make their own mark."



Portnoy: "There are easier ways to earn a decent living"

supremely agile player. Portnoy has as his trademark an ability to balance passages that are light and filigreed against moments when he pushes down hard on the reed to produce a fiercely heavy tone. According to Portnoy, the popular and faintly disparaging view of the "humble" harmonica ignores the versatility of the instrument.

"All musicians want to speak through their instrument which is what makes the harmonica such a valuable tool for playing the blues. Its tonal capabilities are unique, so that you can make it sing, speak, talk, moan, cry, bark, growl, beg for mercy or just about anything else."

Portnoy moved to Boston in 1977, but continued working with Waters' band until 1980. It was during this period that Waters toured as support to Eric Clapton, and Portnoy first met his present employer.

As he says, "there are easier ways to make a decent living than by playing blues," but he is not surprised to find a superstar such as Clapton, at the peak of his career, going back to the basics.

The blues is his source. He returns to the blues for regeneration. It is the primal well-spring of American music. Obviously his musical ability stretches beyond the boundaries of blues, but it is still his deepest source of inspiration."

Eric Clapton's 12-night residency at the Albert Hall (071-559 8212) starts tomorrow

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Options for change

Car manufacturers' new lease-style finance schemes are designed to benefit the motorist, writes Vaughan Freeman

A bewildering array of finance schemes have been launched recently as the leading motor manufacturers try to tempt car buyers with the promise of drastically-reduced costs.

The main cost problem when buying a new car is that you are buying a capital asset which depreciates very quickly. As soon as a £12,000 new car is driven out of the showroom, it is probably worth little more than £10,000. Within 12 months many new cars have lost one third, some as much as a half, of their value when new.

Edsel Ford, Henry Ford's grandson, who is in charge of Ford Credit, said earlier this year: "I don't see the point of using my capital to run a car which I am using for only part of any day and which I will change in a short time. It's time for motorists to pay only for what they use."

The average expected mileage during the two or three years before trade-in is then agreed with the dealer, and using this mileage calculation, the dealer calculates the car's eventual resale value.

The cost to the motorist financed by the manufacturer's loan is calculated as the difference between the agreed purchase price and the end value. At the end of the agreed time period, the motorist takes the car back to the dealer. Provided the dealer and the car's condition, the motorist then has three options: he can hand the vehicle back to the dealer and walk away; he can buy the car outright for the earlier agreed value; or he can use the vehicle at the agreed value as a deposit on a replacement.

In America, where such schemes account for the majority of car purchases, they are known as half-a-car leasing. David Thomas, a spokesman for Ford Finance, says: "In the old days, you put down your deposit on a hire purchase deal, which you paid off over three years. Then you put the car down as a deposit on another vehicle and the whole thing started over. You never actually owned the vehicle."

In addition to reducing costs, such schemes streamline the trade-in process. Customer and dealer know when the vehicle is coming to the end of a contract, so the dealership can line up a customer for a used two-year-old car and the motorist does not have to worry about getting rid of it.



Driving force: the new, more sporty-styled C class range saloons must get Mercedes-Benz back on the road to sales dominance

Mercedes hopes C makes the grade

Mercedes-Benz is defending its business by launching a new, sporty-style of saloon to replace the aging 190 range

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Even so, Mercedes will launch itself into a whole new range of competitively-priced vehicles including city cars, leisure vehicles and people carriers.

The new C-Class is designed to appeal to a younger, more affluent market. It features a more sporty design and improved performance.

There will be a wider range of cars than that presently available within the 190 range. The C-Class will offer four levels of equipment specification - Base, Sport, Elegance and Sport. The Sport will feature more supportive seats, low-

Two weeks ago, Helmut Werner, who takes over as chief executive of Mercedes-Benz in May, admitted that the company's luxury cars were "over-engineered" and that there was a danger the company could be priced out of world markets if something was not done.

Small looks beautiful for BMW

BMW has set its sights on the mini-sized car market with a three seat car which, at 11ft long, is shorter than the Metro, VW Polo or Ford Fiesta.

Codenamed "Z13", the prototype will be unveiled at next week's Geneva motor show. It uses an 1100cc BMW motor-cycle engine and is capable of 112mph. It is designed for town driving, but BMW says that there are no plans for production. But the last such non-production BMW prototype was the Z1 sports car: 8,000 were sold.



with four storage cylinders in a modified roof, is now able to travel more than 200 miles on a single fill-up, making it the longest range gas-powered vehicle in Japan.

High speed gas

MAZDA is experimenting with natural gas to power its vehicles. A gas-powered car based on Mazda's 626 estate.



The 3.0-litre Legend features a 142-hp 24-valve engine with air conditioning and anti-lock braking as standard. Prices are £29,000 for the saloon and £31,250 for the coupé.

Birth of a Legend

THIS weekend, Honda takes the wraps off its new range of luxury Legend saloons and coupés. The Legend was first introduced in 1991 and, together with the Toyota Lexus, signalled Japanese manufacturers' move into larger-sized saloon ranges, traditionally dominated by Jaguar, BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

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House of Lords

Law Report February 19 1993

Court of Appeal

Councils cannot sue in libel

Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd and Others

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Griffiths, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Woolf

[Speeches February 18]

It was of the highest public importance that a democratically elected governmental body should be open to uninhibited public criticism and since the threat of civil actions for defamation would place an undesirable fetter on the freedom of speech, it would be contrary to the public interest for institutions of central or local government to have any right at common law to maintain an action of damages for defamation.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Derbyshire County Council from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss) (The Times February 20, 1992) QB 700.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Derbyshire County Council from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss) (The Times February 20, 1992) QB 700.

Mr Charles Gray, QC, and Ms Heather Rogers for the council, Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for the appellants, Mr Desmond Browne, QC, for the respondents.

LORD KEITH said that the appeal raised, as a preliminary issue, the question whether a local authority was entitled to maintain an action in libel for words which reflected on it in its governmental and administrative functions.

That was the way the preliminary point of law had been expressed in the order of the master but it had opened out into an investigation of whether a local authority could sue for libel at all.

Mr Justice Balcombe, giving the leading judgment in the Court of Appeal, had summarised the facts thus: "In two issues of The Sunday Times... there appeared articles concerning share deals involving the Derbyshire County Council."

The articles in the issue of September 17 were headed "Revealed: Socialist tycoon's deals with a Labour chief" and "Share deals under scrutiny".

superannuation fund, with Mr Bookbinder as the prime mover, in that it was a governmental body. Further, it was a democratically elected body, the electoral process nowadays being conducted almost exclusively on party political lines.

It was of the highest public importance that a democratically elected governmental body, or indeed any governmental body, should be open to uninhibited public criticism. The threat of a civil action for defamation inevitably had to have an inhibiting effect on the freedom of speech.

In City of Chicago v Tribune Co (1923) 139 NE 86 the Supreme Court of Illinois had held that the city could not maintain an action of damages for libel.

It was said: "The fundamental right of freedom of speech is involved in this litigation, and not merely the right of liberty of the press. If this action can be maintained against a newspaper it can be maintained against every private citizen who ventures to criticise the ministers who are temporarily conducting the affairs of his government."

Those provisions were enacted by the Supreme Court of the United States in New York Times Co v Sullivan (1964) 376 US 254, 277.

While those decisions were related more directly to the provisions of the American Constitution concerned with securing freedom of speech, the public interest considerations which underlay them were no less valid in the United Kingdom.

What had been described as "the chilling effect" induced by the threat of civil actions for libel was very important. Quite often the facts which would justify a defamation publication were known to be true, but admissible evidence capable of proving those facts was not available. That might prevent the publication of matters which it was very desirable to make public.

It was of some significance to observe that a number of departments of central government in the United Kingdom were statutorily created corporations, including the Secretaries of State for Defence, Education and Science, Energy, Environment and Social Services.

If a local authority could sue for libel there would appear to be no reason in logic for holding that any of those departments was not also entitled to sue.

trading or non-trading. The most important of those features was that it was a governmental body. Further, it was a democratically elected body, the electoral process nowadays being conducted almost exclusively on party political lines.

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If a local authority could sue for libel there would appear to be no reason in logic for holding that any of those departments was not also entitled to sue.

private citizens which institutions of central government were not in a position to exercise unless they could show that it was in the public interest to do so.

The same applied to local authorities. It was right for the House to lay down that not only was there no public interest favouring the right of organs of government, whether central or local, to sue for libel, but that it was contrary to the public interest that they should have it. It was contrary to the public interest because to admit such actions would place an undesirable fetter on the freedom of speech.

In the case of a local authority temporarily under the control of one political party or another it was difficult to say that the local authority as such had any reputation of its own. Reputation in the eyes of the public was more likely to be attached to the controlling political party, and with a change in that party the reputation itself would change.

A publication attacking the activities of the authority would necessarily be an attack on the body of councillors which represented the controlling party, or on the executives who carried on the day-to-day management of its affairs. If the individual reputation of any of them was wrongly impaired by the publication he could himself bring proceedings for defamation. Further, it was open to the controlling body to defend itself by public utterances and in debate in the council chamber.

The conclusion had to be that under the common law of England a local authority did not have the right to maintain an action of damages for defamation.

That was the conclusion reached by the Court of Appeal, which did so principally by reference to article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969), to which the United Kingdom adhered but which had not been enacted into domestic law.

His Lordship had reached his conclusion upon the common law of England without finding any need to rely upon the European Convention. Lord Goff in Guardian Newspapers Ltd (No 2) had expressed the opinion (at pp283-284) that in the field of freedom of speech there was no difference in principle between English law on the subject and article 10 of the Convention.

His Lordship agreed, and could only add that he found it satisfactory to be able to conclude that the common law of England was consistent with the obligations assumed by the Crown under the Treaty in that particular field.

It followed that the *Bogor Regis* UDC case was wrongly decided and should be overruled.

Larner v British Steel plc

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment February 12]

The test of keeping a place of work safe for any person working there, under section 29(1) of the Factories Act 1961, was a strict one, and there was obligation in a duty for breach of statutory duty under the section for the claimant to establish that the question of reasonable foreseeability arose in consideration of whether the place of work was safe.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, William Norman Larner, against the dismissal by Judge T. Michael Evans, QC, at Swansea County Court on March 13, 1992, of his claim for damages against British Steel plc for personal injuries.

The case was remitted to the county court for assessment of damages on the basis of 100 per cent liability.

Mr Philip Richards for Mr Larner, Mr Lloyd Williams for British Steel.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the plaintiff, an experienced mechanical fitter employed by British Steel at Port Talbot, was injured on February 14, 1987, when carrying out work on a heavy piece of equipment used in the steel-making process which was known by the defendants to be cracked. It fell and severely crushed his right leg.

The plaintiff's statement of claim was based almost word for word on the formulation in section 29(1), and so far as negligence was concerned, the claim in effect was two-fold: failure to inspect the structure sufficiently and failure to give adequate warning of the fracture.

The defendants denied liability and, importantly, did not plead that it was not reasonably practicable to make the place of work safe.

The judge had concluded that the defendants had taken all reasonable and practical steps to keep the place of work safe. His Lordship said that it was established from the authorities as a pre-requisite that, if such an issue was to be raised, it had to be expressly pleaded by a defendant: see *Bowes v Sedgfield District Council* [1981] CR 254, 258, 261, and so far as negligence was concerned, the claim in effect was two-fold: failure to inspect the structure sufficiently and failure to give adequate warning of the fracture.

on the plaintiff to prove that the danger was reasonably foreseeable by the defendants.

He relied principally on *Taylor v Vauxhall Motors Ltd* (1967) 3 KIR 315 and *McQuinn v Enterprise Sales Metal Works (Aberdeen) Ltd* (1986) SLT 697.

It was held in those cases, in his Lordship's view, that the question of reasonable foreseeability did arise in determining whether the plans of the accident were safe under the regulations, with similar provisions to section 29, concerning means of access.

The theory underlying those cases stemmed from a dictum of Lord Reid in the House of Lords in *John Sumner & Sons Ltd v Frost* (1955) AC 740, 766, in a case under section 14 of the Factories Act 1937, the requirement on an employer to fence dangerous machinery, when he said "the question is whether before the accident it was reasonably foreseeable that an accident of this kind might happen".

Mr Richards pointed out that that view was not reflected in any of the other speeches in the case, and Vauxhall Motors (at p751) said and agreed on the facts of the case as an "absolute obligation".

His Lordship said that the clear wording of section 29(1) made no reference to reasonable foreseeability, see also *Munkman, Employers' Liability* (11th edition (1990) pp292-293) so that if Mr Williams' argument was correct the distinction between the common law duty of care and the statutory duty would be virtually obliterated.

Neither of the two cases he relied on were binding authority. They might be explained as being near the borderline since they involved comparatively transient and trivial obstructions in the place of access, a stray piece of wood in *Taylor* and a cardboard sheet in *McQuinn*.

His Lordship preferred the approach of Vauxhall Motors in *John Sumner & Sons Ltd v Frost* (1955) AC 740, 766, in a case under section 14 of the Factories Act 1937, the requirement on an employer to fence dangerous machinery, when he said "the question is whether before the accident it was reasonably foreseeable that an accident of this kind might happen".

But the issue of negligence required a very different approach from the issue of breach of statutory duty under section 29(1), since the way the duty was framed under that section required the employer to establish and plead, as he did in the authorities, that it was not reasonably practicable to make and keep the work place safe.

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The judge did not have the benefit of the citation of authorities and the fuller arguments that the present court had, and there was no explanation of the consequences of the defendants' failure to plead the necessary averment as to reasonable practicability.

In his Lordship's judgment therefore the defendants' failure to plead and prove that led to the conclusion that the plaintiff's claim for breach of statutory duty had to succeed unless, as Mr Williams submitted, the plaintiff failed to show that his place of work was not made or kept safe for him.

His Lordship said that it was for the plaintiff to establish that the accident which occurred was a reasonably foreseeable danger raised the question whether "safe" in section 29(1) meant safe from a reasonably foreseeable danger.

His Lordship said that the section contained no express reference to foreseeability, reasonable or otherwise. "Safe" was an ordinary English word and there was no reason why the question whether a place of work was safe should not be decided purely as a question of fact without any gloss being put on the word.

To imply words to the section was to reduce the protection afforded by the Act for the workman, the plain object of the section being to provide for a safe working place: see *Nimmo* (at p122).

It would also seem wrong to imply a requirement of foreseeability as the result would frequently be to limit success in a breach of statutory duty claim to circumstances where the workman would also succeed in a parallel claim for negligence, and thus it reduced the utility of the section. The *Taylor* case cited by Mr Williams was decided before *Nimmo* so that the approach to section 29 by the Court of Appeal needed reconsideration in the light of what was said in *Nimmo* and, in any event, the Court of Appeal's comments were obiter.

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Strict test of safety in workplace

Absence from scene of crime after plot is no excuse

Regina v Rook

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Potter and Mr Justice Buckley

[Judgment January 29]

If a secondary party, who was not present at the scene of a crime, gave assistance and encouragement to the principal parties, it was no defence for him to say that he did not intend the victim to be killed, or to suffer serious harm, if he contemplated or foresaw the event as a real or serious risk.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Adrian Rook against his conviction in July 1990 at Nottingham Crown Court (Mr Justice Turner and a jury of murder).

delivering the judgment of the court, said that a taxi driver wished to be rid of his wife and agreed to pay the appellant and two others to murder her.

The following day the appellant could not be found but the taxi driver drove his wife to the appointed place where they met the other co-defendants who dragged her from the car, killed her and threw her body into a lake.

On his own evidence at the trial it was clear that the appellant took a leading part in the planning of the murder. He foresaw that the murder would, or at least might, take place.

For a time he stalled the others. But he did nothing to stop them, and apart from his absence on the day of the murder, he did nothing to indicate to them that he had changed his mind.

some of the crime, it was not necessary for the prosecution to show that the secondary party intended the victim to be killed, or to suffer serious injury.

It was enough that he should have foreseen the event, as a real or substantial risk: see *Chan Wing-Siu v The Queen* ([1985] AC 168); *R v Hyde* ([1991] 1 QB 134) and *Hui Chi-Ming v The Queen* ([1992] 1 AC 34).

A secondary party might be liable for the unintended consequences of the principal's acts, provided the principal did not go outside the scope of the joint enterprise.

There was no reason why the same reasoning should not apply in the case of a secondary party who lent assistance or encouragement before the commission of the crime. The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Nottingham.

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BY DAVID HANDS

BY DAVID RHYNS JONES

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Disappointing season drives trainer and jockey apart

Bailey and Tory end five-year link

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

KIM Bailey, one of several Lambourn trainers whose yard has been hit by a virus this season, has dispensed with the riding services of Anthony Tory. The five-year partnership enjoyed considerable success, most notably with Kings Fountain and Docklands Express, the winner of the Whitbread Gold Cup and Racing Post Chase.

Bailey, with only 22 winners in a frustrating season, said yesterday that he and Tory had mutually agreed to end the informal arrangement under which the jockey rode most of the yard's horses. "The partnership has not been so successful this year, partly as a result of the ground being soft and a number of horses being under a cloud," Bailey said. "It was felt a change would give both parties more freedom of choice."

Bailey stressed that he would continue to use Tory on a freelance basis and did not intend to appoint another stable jockey before the end of the season.



Splitting up: Kim Bailey (left) and Anthony Tory have decided to sever their informal trainer-jockey association



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The 13-year-old is owned by Rhydian Morgan-Jones, a senior adviser to Khaled Abdullah. Along with the Prince's racing manager, Richard Evans, the ground is not soft, Zafonic is expected to reappear in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over seven furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte in April. While Tenby and Armiger are pencilled in for the Derby, the latter has not been ruled out of the 2,000 Guineas if the ground comes up soft.

Zafonic, who is reported to have strengthened considerably during the winter, remains a favourite for the 2,000 Guineas but William Hill yesterday reported significant support for the Luca Cumani-trained Barathra, unbeaten in two starts at two, including the Hougham Stakes at Newmarket.

David Hood, the spokesman for William Hill, said: "Barathra must have been catching pigeons on the Newmarket gallops given the weight of money in recent days. On Monday we had him at 20-1, but he is now 16-1 on Tuesday and now to 14-1."

Clifford Hill, one of the top chasers of the 1990-91 season, has died on trainer Gordon Richards's gallops. A post-mortem revealed an arterial haemorrhage in the lung.

1990 Champion Hurdle winner, have been shelved following a workout yesterday morning on David Nicholson's gallops. Michael Stoute's nine-year-old is set to run in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton next Thursday.

Nicholson's gallops at Jackdaws Castle appear to possess near magical powers this season. Apart from providing Nicholson with a personal best total, Knocknello Castle, the former Jonjo O'Neill-trained chaser, worked there recently in preparation for yesterday's Wilfred Johnstone Hunter Chase and he showed the benefit by running out a five-length winner.

Grant Pritchard-Gordon, they landed something of a gamble, having backed Knocknello Castle, who started at 10-1, at 16-1 and 14-1.

An elated Pritchard-Gordon outlined provisional plans for Abdullah's leading three-year-olds, Zafonic, the winner of the Dewhurst Stakes, Tenby and Armiger, who heads the Derby betting.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Lucayan Treasure (3.20 Southwell)
Next bet: Tapestry Dancer (2.10 Fakenham)

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SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
2.00 Russell Darius.
2.30 Al Hashimi.
3.05 Gay Ruffian.

GOING: GOOD (BACK STRAIGHT: GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 EBF FOX NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,897; 2m 110yd) (10 runners)
101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2

Atherton and Emburey recalled to team again handicapped by sickness in its ranks

England gamble with high-risk attack

FROM PETER BALL
IN BOMBAY

ILLNESS has disrupted England's preparations for the third Test match in succession. Alec Stewart and Neil Fairbrother have been selected in the squad for the final Test here, which starts today, but both have caught the virus that has been affecting the party for the last four weeks and were unable to practise yesterday.

If either is forced to drop out this morning, and bitter recent experience makes that more likely than not, Richard Blakey will deputise as Eng-

land intend to play seven batsmen. If both are unfit, that policy will have to be revised, unless a great deal of humble pie is to be eaten and an SOS sent to a certain left-handed television commentator.

The plan means that Atherton makes a welcome return after his controversial omission from the second Test. The specialist bowling will consist of two spinners and two seam bowlers.

Tufnell and Emburey, whose experience has gained him preference to Salisbury, will operate in tandem for the first time on this tour after starting in December as the

first-choice pair. Sidhu, who hit Emburey out of contention before the first Test with a fusillade of sixes, may be licking his lips in anticipation, although the Indian opening batsman has been more restrained in the Test arena.

After playing four seam bowlers in the first Test, the selectors have now gone to the other extreme and will play only two. Malcolm has been omitted from the team that played in Madras and the final place will presumably come down to a choice between DeFreitas and Jarvis.

After the experience of Madras, where Lewis was unable

TEAMS
INDIA (from): M Prabhakar, N S Sidhu, V G Kamble, S R Tendulkar, M Ashwin (captain), P K Aravind, Kapil Dev, K S More, A Kumble, R Chauhan, S L V Raju, J Smith.
ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (captain), A J Stewart, M A Atherton, M W Gatting, R A Smith, N H Fairbrother, G A Hick, R J Blakey, G C Lewis, J E Emburey, P A J DeFreitas, P C Tufnell, P W Jarvis.

to bowl after his opening spell, it is a high-risk policy for a match England have to win to even salvage any pride from the series.

Correspondents were kept some distance away from the

pitch yesterday. But reports suggested that, underneath a covering of grass, the surface is loose with holes already appearing, so it may help spin from an early stage.

If so, the toss will perhaps be less crucial than in the first two Tests, although it is certain that whoever wins it will bat. But it is questionable whether seven England batsmen will necessarily succeed against the Indian spinners where six have failed. It is rather like the football tactic of playing a sweeper as insurance.

The English batsmen's predilection for the sweep is being questioned here. It has been

noticeable that the Indians do not employ the shot and not until Kapil Dev came in at No. 7 was it used in their innings of 560 for six in Madras.

The contrast to the England approach was particularly striking to one distinguished observer. "One can get away with it [the sweep] on a golden day but the percentages are not in favour of the batsmen," Sunil Gavaskar wrote in his column in the *Times of India*.

"Yet just about every English batsman tried to sweep the ball and that, too, against the spin. The sweep is employed by batsmen who are not good

enough to use their feet to get to the pitch of the ball."

Gavaskar went on to suggest that Gatting had not employed it during his prolific tour of 1984-5. This tour, he has swept constantly and twice lost his wicket because of it.

Yet everyone who saw Gooch's century in Bombay in the 1987 World Cup semi-final remembers it for his successful sweeping.

The England team have talked about methods for dealing with the spinners but most seem determined to continue to play the shot, which is an important part of their armoury.

IN BRIEF

Unfit Lendl defers US cup slot

Ivan Lendl, who became an American citizen last year, has turned down an invitation from Tom Gorman, the United States Davis Cup tennis captain, to play against Australia next month.

"I told him I wasn't 100 per cent fit but that doesn't mean I wouldn't be interested in playing at a later time," Lendl, 32, who was born in Czechoslovakia, said.

Paul Hand, of Berkshire, beat Pierre Bouteyre, of France, who is ranked 400 places above him, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals of the indoor satellite tournament in Manchester. Britons Andrew Richardson, Mark Petchey and Andrew Foster also reached the last eight.

Scotland could face All Blacks

Rugby union: Scotland are the same half of the draw as New Zealand, South Africa and Western Samoa for the Hong Kong sevens next month. Ireland and the Welsh President's VII are in the other half, as are Fiji and Australia.

Aran Verling, the London Irish flanker, has been banned from playing until March 30 after being sent off for stamping against Harlequins.

Wright returns

Cricket: John Wright will return from injury to open the batting for New Zealand in the first Test against Australia in Christchurch next week. Chris Cairns also has been recalled, after having a kidney operation.

Pession's title

Skating: Spencer Pession, 21, took the men's giant slalom title at the British Land British national championships in Tignes, France. Debbie Pratt added to her downhill title by winning the women's giant slalom.

Looking ahead

Olympics Games: Gay Mitchell, the lord mayor of Dublin, said yesterday technical reports costing about £1 million would be needed if the Irish capital wished to bid for the Olympics as early as 2004. "A Dublin bid could become a reality," Mitchell said.

Lessing indoors

Triathlon: Simon Lessing, of Britain, the world champion, will take on Mark Allen, the triple Hawaii Ironman winner, in a new indoor super-sprint event in Bordeaux this weekend.

Ward sidelined

Rugby league: St Helens, the first division leaders, will be without Kevin Ward for their closing championship games. The prop forward has a broken thumb.

Test for Belles

Football: Doncaster Belles, the women's national league champions, host Arsenal, the unbeaten league leaders and League Cup holders, at their Armitage Park Welfare Club ground on Sunday.

White designated

American football: The Philadelphia Eagles may designate Reggie White, a free agent, as a "franchise player", ensuring a compensatory draft choice if he joins another National Football League team.

GOLF

Gilford puts case for successful defence

DAVID Gilford, the Ryder Cup player, set the early pace with an opening round of 68 in the Moroccan Open at Golf Royal de Agadir yesterday.

Gilford, 27, who won the title last year, began badly 12 months ago, scoring a first-round 76, but finished the tournament so strongly he went on to beat Robert Karlsson, of Sweden, in a sudden death play-off at the third extra hole.

Yesterday Gilford, from Crewe, began in more positive manner with birdies at each of the first three holes and, after dropping a shot at the 348-yard seventh, had two more birdies at the tenth and eleventh, his famed accuracy off the tee used to good effect.

His nearest early challengers were David Curry, the former Walker Cup player, and Miguel Angel Marin, of Spain.

Steve Ballesteros, the pre-tournament favourite, despite admitting he is in a slump, began badly, dropping three shots on the first eight holes, but recovered with birdies at the tenth and twelfth to hand in a card of 73. He was joined on the same score by Steve Richardson, of Hampshire, and Gordon Brand Jr.

Jim Payne, the European Tour Rookie of the Year in 1992, was challenging the leaders at one time after he played the first eight holes, from the tenth, in three under par.

Gilford bogged the 15th to slip to three under but he had a magnificent eagle three at the 511-yard 17th to go to five under. He dropped another shot at the last but was still leading the field with the wind getting up.

Defending champion Vijay Singh, of Fiji, shot a round of 67 to share the first-round lead with three other players in the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Ian Woosnam scored a two-under-par 70.

Peter Senior, of Australia, was almost £50,000 richer yesterday after a hole-in-one at the 150-yard par-three fifteenth in the opening round of the Australian Masters in Melbourne.

He finished on a five-under-par total of 68 along with four other players, who all trail the leader, Craig Parry, of Australia, by one shot after the first day.

On the road with Newcastle's black-and-white army



Rainbow warrior: one of Newcastle's travelling faithful leads the support at Ewood Park as Tyneside's FA Cup roadshow takes centre stage at Blackburn

To the armchair football supporter, an attendance figure shy of 20,000 appears respectable without being remarkable. To the people of Blackburn, it seemed as if the world was descending on their city and, for those who lived or traded in the Ewood Park area, south of town down the Bolton Road, it was cause for alarm. Newcastle United and their supporters were arriving for an FA Cup tie.

Wing Fat, the Chinese take-away a few hundred yards from the ground, had closed. The adjacent newsagent displayed a local paper placard proclaiming "Thieves steal widow's ashes from cemetery".

On the corner, a building that was long and low and dark, reminiscent of a public bathhouse fallen on hard times, turned out to be the Ewood and Haslingden Conservative Association, had locked its doors: speakas-like people knocked, waited, were examined and admitted;

unlikely Tory voters most of them.

A betting office was doing moderate business: a neighbourhood shop behind a "tea, coffee, soup, sandwiches" sign had the punters going in and out. I went in, as much for warmth as sustenance, could have bought half a pound of hard for 25p, settled for chicken soup at 40p in a plastic cup—a price at which you have no right to criticise anything, but the temperature. It was hot. A policewoman with a pig-tail came in and rumbled knowledgeably among the boiled sweets, was sorry they did not stock strawberry lozenges.

I had arrived at Blackburn Station on a "sprinter" train from Halifax, a hundred football-bound men and boys and two special constables detailed to keep an eye on us. We were 55 minutes late—the train in front of us having failed at Accrington—but we took it well through one of the policemen displayed a shirty attitude at the delay.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Six more officers waited outside the station, giving us hard looks. A 60p bus took us onwards, crawling through the traffic to our destination: in front of us, behind and at our side were cars from Geordieland, each bearing four passengers dressed in black and white. Like Homepride men without bowler hats. Along the pavement walked the indigenous Rovers fans. Lowry-like figures looking straight in front of them, knowing that when it

came to being football supporters, they were outperformed by the men from the north-east. The only chance of success was victory on the field of play... unlikely considering their recent results.

With an hour to kick-off, the crowd milling outside the ground split into factions: there were the macho men marching around with short-sleeved black-and-white shirts the slightly less macho, who wore their shirts over long-sleeved jerseys, and the hardy-macho-at-all, wrapped in anoraks with just a fringe of black and white to show that their hearts were on Tyneside.

The home supporters were noticeable for sartorial neglect: their's not to make a scene but to swell the numbers, do their duty.

Half a dozen mounted police, including the strawberry lozenge woman, patrolled the area: home fans at one end, visitors at the other; worthies, season-ticket hold-

ers and neighbourhood gods in the middle. All ticket. No black marketeers or touts.

I squeezed through a turnstile built for anorectics—Sir Cyril from down the road at Rochdale would not have made it—took my seat at the back of the stand: to my right, the black and white scarved crowd was punching the air, singing "Noo-car-sale, noo-car-sale, noo-car-sale" to the tune of "Here we go, here we go"; on the left, at the Northern end, the local fans were nodding their heads, stamping their feet: cold rather than passion.

As the teams took the field, the people in front of me rose to their feet and I wondered why one buys seats when it is so much more fun to stand.

"Uriyafo?" said the man on my left. I thought about this for a while and told him I was neutral. He shook his head in wonderment. "Wiryahe?" I let it pass.

At half-time, there was a rumour of tea and snacks; I stood in a queue, watched a number of people carrying cups and handsomely-glazed meat-pies anointed with blobs of ketchup... but when the whistle blew to restart the game, the source of this palatable goodness was still out of sight and I returned to my seat.

"Que sera sera..." sang the visiting supporters, an odd choice of lyrics for a nulli scoreline. "Whooyathink-lwn?" asked my neighbour. "Replay!" I said.

On the train back to London, I met two dozen members of the London Newcastle United supporters club who had paid £20 for the return ticket from Euston to Blackburn... only they had to leave the match three minutes before the end to catch the connection and missed the 89th-minute goal that gave victory to the home side. "Wewutrobb?" said a woman in a black and white striped opera cloak.

FOOTBALL: HOME TRUTHS MUST BE ABSORBED TO BOOST WORLD CUP PROSPECTS

Jess provides new impetus for Scotland's campaign

By RODDY FORSYTH

THE odds against Scotland qualifying for the World Cup finals next year have scarcely been transformed by the 3-0 win over Malta at Ibrox on Wednesday. But they have been trimmed and there are grounds for at least a degree of optimism as Andy Roxburgh, their coach, begins to plan for the trip to Lisbon in April.

Although Scotland now sit third in the group on points, level with Italy on goals, the Italians have a game in hand and the Portuguese have two. Nevertheless, this section has been volatile since it began.

Switzerland cannot be overtaken as front-runners before the summer but although their position is strong, they specialise in squandering advantages. They took a point from Italy in Bari in October but they were 2-0 ahead with fifteen minutes to play.

Having stuttered at home, the Italians were hardly impressive when winning 2-1 in Malta, where the home side

missed a penalty. Portugal, too, won in Malta by a thin margin and the Maltese penchant for making life difficult was demonstrated when they scored in Bern, forcing the Swiss to live on their nerves before achieving a 3-1 victory.

The Swiss manager, Roy Hodgson, who was at Ibrox on Wednesday, said: "Scotland did everything right, except for McAllister's penalty kick and that was unlucky. If the penalty had gone in I think Scotland would have run up a high score."

Roxburgh's summary was identical. "When Gary's penalty kick hit the bar and bounced on the line I feared that it would give them heart. There is no doubt in my mind that we would have piled up the goals if he had scored, because they would have been two down after half an hour and they would have known they were beaten."

When it became evident that Malta's tactics had pro-

duced a degree of monotony in the Scottish approach, Roxburgh made an astute substitution, replacing McPherson with Robertson and pushing Eion Jess wide to the right.

"We decided to use two wingers to vary our attacks and keep Malta guessing," Roxburgh said. "It worked because we started to push into their penalty area from both sides and that helped wear them down."

Although McCoist increased his total of goals for the season to 44, the most pleasing aspect of Scotland's play was the performance of Jess, from Aberdeen, whose speed of thought and execution were remarkable. "For me he came of age as an international player in the first half hour," Roxburgh said.

Scotland now have a friendly against Germany to help Jess bed down in the team before the game in Portugal, where a draw would brighten their prospects significantly.

Confident Charlton dismisses Northern Ireland's chances

By IAN ROSS

"We do not take anyone lightly but, to be honest, I am not too concerned about Northern Ireland," he said. "Yes, they are level on points with us but they now have four exceptionally difficult games coming up—all away from home."

"I do still believe that it is a case of picking two qualifiers from a group of three—

Having seen his country force its way back into contention in group three with a diligent performance against awkward opposition, Bingham's sense of satisfaction was immediate. Charlton, the manager of the Republic of Ireland, was present at the game but said he would not be losing a great deal of sleep before the two Irish sides meet in Dublin next month, despite the quality of Northern Ireland's performance.

Although Bingham's team has moved them up into third place in the group table, level on points with the Republic after having played one more fixture, Charlton, it would seem, remains unconvinced about their pedigree.



Charlton: unconvinced

Spain, Denmark and ourselves. Having said that, I would love to find a situation where ourselves and Northern Ireland meet in Belfast for our last fixture both requiring one point to reach the United States."

Bingham had not been amused to discover that Charlton had booked himself on to a specially chartered plane to Albania and, predictably, he was swift to decry his opponent's somewhat biased forecast.

"It is premature and presumptuous of Jack Charlton to say that we are the outsiders," he said. "Obviously, if we can get a result in Dublin, we will have a chance of qualifying."

The Irish Football Association has officially protested to Fifa, the game's world governing body, about the conditions the players and the rest of their party were forced to endure during the course of their trip to Albania.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (48451)
7.00 Breakfast News (5232109)
9.05 Kibitz Robert Kibitz-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (c) (8363154) 9.45 **Rose King** Game show (s) (6111600)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (9793062) 10.05 **Playdays** For the very young (c) (1668283)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick **Weekday** magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen Today's edition includes showbusiness and a romantic tale, a topical phone-in and consumer affairs (s) With **News** (CeeFax) and weather at 11.00 and 11.05 (1068277)
12.15 Pobble Mills Alan Titchmarsh is joined by author and playwright Alan Bleasdale (c) (7551703) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (86343074)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton (CeeFax) Weather (73074)
1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (8763432) 1.50 **Eldorado** (c) (CeeFax) (s) (7682919)
2.20 First Letter First word game hosted by Don Maclean (s) (1423154) 2.45 **The Flying Doctors** Australian drama series set in the outback (s) (1552003)
3.30 Barney Bear Double Bill (8681867) 3.45 **Junior Jungle** (s) (8897180) 3.55 **Quick Draw McGraw** (c) (8893364) 4.05 **Jackanory** Adrian Edmondson with the last part of **Harvey Angel** (c) (8494544) 4.15 **Rude Dog and the Dweebs** (1923567) 4.30 **The Really Wild Show** Nature series presented by Terry Nutkins, Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan. This week's edition features a meeting between an Indian tiger cub and a young African lion (CeeFax) (s) (3050906)
4.55 Newsworld Extra: What Future the Monarchy? Krishnan Guru-Murthy reveals the result of a survey of children's attitudes towards the royal family (3057797) 5.05 **Grange Hill** Comprehensive school drama serial (CeeFax) (s) (8921567)
5.25 Neighbours (c) (CeeFax) (s) (152638) Northern Ireland. Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Gossens and Maura Stuart (CeeFax) Weather (884)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (364) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado (CeeFax) (s) (7682919)
7.30 Entertainment Express Showbusiness and media magazine presented by Selma Scott and John Leslie. Among those taking part are the American film-maker Spike Lee, who talks about his chances of winning an Oscar this year; Steven Seagal, star of the hit American film **Under Siege**; and Leslie Grantham who discusses his first comic role with **Andi Peters** (548) Northern Ireland. Sports news (3057797) 7.55 **Grange Hill** Comprehensive school drama serial (CeeFax) (s) (8921567)
8.00 All Creatures Great and Small The rugged and the smooth. Segined (Robert Hardy) sings the praises of his new time-management system but it is of no use when he has to treat an exuberant Great Dane (c) (452548)
8.50 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson (c) (814151)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis (CeeFax) Regional news and weather (2567)

BBC2

6.45 Open University Maths — Population Modelling (1435180) 7.10 **Developing World: I Used to Work in the Fields** (8710639) 7.35 **Maths: Symbols and Equations** (4506800)
8.00 Breakfast News (5297432)
9.00 Daytime On Two Educational programmes. Includes, for children, 9.15 **Flimflam** (8041567) 1.35 **Dilly the Dinosaur** (9025684)
2.00 News and weather followed by **Words and Pictures** (s) (5174987) 2.15 **Jumpstart**. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (c) (5403987)
2.20 Sport on Friday presented by Helen Rollason. Bowls: the Midland Bank world indoor championship from Preston. Rugby Union: a preview of Saturday's games between Scotland and Wales at Murrayfield and Ireland v France at Lansdowne Road. Football: a review of the week's World Cup games. Includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (9363364)
6.00 Stingray. Classic puppet adventures. (CeeFax) (468797)
6.25 The Man From Uncle. Robert Vaughn and David McCallum star as the UNCLE agents Solo and Kuryakin, here thwarting THURSH's plans to control worldwide volcanic activity (c) (CeeFax) (801432)
7.15 Dr Who. The first of a four-part adventure, **The Caves of Androzani**, starring Peter Davison in the title role (c) (CeeFax) (291887)
7.40 Public Eye Special: Cole on the Dole.
● **CHOICE**. Having reported on unemployment for many years from Westminster, John Cole now samples it on the ground. He takes a long perspective, sampling parallels and contrasts with the depression of the Thirties and the current class struggle such as Prestley's **English Journey** and Orwell's **The Road to Wigan Pier**. Then the unemployed were mainly working class and a long way from London. Now the south is being hit as well, and so is the middle class. Cole's other literary peg is the autobiography of Nigel Lawson, which he regards as the fullest and most honest account of the Thatcher experiment by an insider. Cole reports from Scotland in the north-east, where only a fifth of workers have full-time jobs, and the south Yorkshire mining village of Thurnscoe, which lost its main pit five years ago (601704)



Border plants: Geoff Hamilton springs into action (8.30pm)

8.30 Gardeners' World. The start of the twenty-fifth series from Sandeals. Geoff Hamilton tackles a border. Liz Ripley explores mosses and lichens and Stephen Lacey enjoys the versatility of colour. (CeeFax) (245)
9.00 Arena: The Last Soviet Citizen.
● **CHOICE**. The last citizen of the Soviet Union was the cosmonaut, Sergei Krikalev. Sent into space in the spring of 1991, he was still there when his country collapsed. Because of political squabbling and lack of money he stayed in orbit several months longer, until finally allowed to land courtesy of funds from Germany. His return was largely unnoticed. What occurred with the first Soviet man in space, Yuri Gagarin, who came back to a hero's welcome and became an international celebrity. A film which might have been better suited to the Timeswatch slot looks back at 30 years of Soviet space travel and its celebration by artists, musicians and filmmakers. It includes an interview with Helen Sherrman, who went up with Krikalev. An expansion to get back earlier. Poor Krikalev. He now seems less than a hero (802567)
10.15 Dinotopia. An exploration of the current cult of the dinosaur (24600)
10.30 Newswatch. Peter Snow chairs a discussion on the management of the British economy (765426)
11.15 The Wind That Papers Say Awards 1992, presented by Lord McGreggor at the Savoy Hotel in London (648667). Wales: Waps in Westminster 11.45 **The Wind That Papers Say Awards**
12.00 Weather (7073020)
12.05am Helms (colour and b/w). Episode five of the 11-part German epic tracing the lives of three village families from the years 1919 to 1992 (574781). Ends at 1.10. Wales: 12.30-1.30 Helms

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV presented by Michael Wilson until 7.00 when Eamonn Holmes and Anne Davies take over. The guests include Rudi Sack, Fred, the Chetains, Robert Powell and Roy Barraclough (813068)
9.25 Runway. Quiz game hosted by Richard Madeley. Last in the series (9381277) 9.55 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5652258)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion (996616)
10.35 This Morning with Judy Furrington and Richard Madeley (80435548)
12.10 Tots TV Learning fun with puppets (s) (9445313)
12.30 Lunchtime News (Teletext) Weather (1803432) 1.05 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5652258)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama (Teletext) (524635) 1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (523906)
2.15 Life Goes On. Australian domestic drama (9586277)
3.10 ITN News headlines (7945548) 3.15 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5652258) 3.30 **Home and Away** (Teletext) and weather (5652258)
3.50 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. Animation (c) (3106426)
3.55 Zzzap! The television comic (5870738) 4.15 **Teletext** Animation (c) (s) (3875155) 4.40 **Just Us**. The first of a new series of the drama about family life. (Teletext) (s) (5636722)
5.10 Home and Away (Teletext) and weather (5652258)
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) Weather (755074)
6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (83880)
7.00 Celebrity Squares. Bob Monkhouse is joined by Roger DeCourcy, Judi Sners, Shane Richie, Geoff Capes, Ken Meney, Ruth Madoc, Michael Gough, Terry Alderton and Pat Coombs (s) (1616)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (616)
8.00 The Bill. Hard Man. Sun Hill officers are puzzled about a man's desperation to get into a group and breakfast (Teletext) (574)



Unmasked: Duncan Preston, Nicholas McAuliffe (8.30pm)

8.30 Surgical Spirit: Congratulations.
● **CHOICE**. The medical comedy moves merrily into a new series, with the impetuous surgeon Sheila (Nicholas McAuliffe) at last consummating her affair with the wimpish Jonathan (Duncan Preston). But since their off-romance has been one of the comic linchpins of the series, how can **Surgical Spirit** survive now that it has been removed? The answer seems to be very well thank you. First the pair must suffer the embarrassment of imparting the news to their colleagues. There are jokes to be squeezed out of that. Then it emerges that Sheila has been promoted to director of surgery, to the fury of her male rivals. All this and a running gag about greasy breakfasts. **Surgical Spirit** is not a great strong but it is a likable one, thanks to Peter Learmouth's neat scripts and a cast which plays them to the hilt. (Teletext) (6971)
9.00 The Good Guys. Trouble is in the air when Lofthouse (Keith Barron) is entrusted with the safekeeping of a King Charles spaniel which promptly disappears. Also starring Nigel Havers, Joanna David and Stratford Johns. (Teletext) (s) (8109)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (56506) 10.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (83880)
10.40 Love and War. American romantic comedy about an attraction of opposites. Starring Susan Day and Jay Thomas (s) (485682)
11.05 The London Programme Special: Under the Knife. From the Royal College of Physicians the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, debates the changes she has implemented for London hospitals (s) (296393)
12.05am Sun TV Dating. Match-making service for singles (7492556)
12.35am The ITV Chart Show (s) (5941198)
1.35 White On. James White introduces entertainment and debate (1934681)
2.40 American Gladiators. Tests of strength and technique for the super-fit (s) (164672)
3.45 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. The latest American releases reviewed (2030407)
4.10 Austin City Limits. Country music sounds from the United States (2030407)
5.30 ITN Morning News (97391). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sesame Street (c) (9217058) 6.45 **Spiff and Hercules** (9258703)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin. The guests include Richard Norton of **Home and Away** (90797)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show (s) (78155)
9.30 Schools (243616)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Elinor Goodman with a round up of news from both Houses (62819)
12.30 Sesame Street (18277) 1.30 **Unl Off** (s) (95684)
2.00 Film: Magnificent Doll (1946). b/w starring Ginger Rogers. David Niven and Burgess Meredith. Period romantic drama, based on a fact about a woman who courted a traitor but eventually married the fourth president of the United States, James Madison. Directed by Frank Borzage (528987)
3.40 Joe McDouakes (b/w). Joe (George O'Hanlon) waxes about losing his hair (8003109)
3.55 Survival: A Robbery of White. Antarctic wildlife (c) (8471364)
4.00 Countdown with Richard Whitley. (Teletext) (s) (529)
5.00 Cutting Edge: Undercover. An investigation into the plight of Britain's low paid (c) (Teletext) (8529)
6.00 Blossom. American high school comedy series (s) (722)
6.30 Happy Days. Fonzie is bemused by his friend Poole's ability to find the whereabouts to date a girl (c) (Teletext) (154)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (163434)
7.50 First Reaction. Mark Lawson comments on the success of the BBC sitcom **One Foot in the Grave** (719033)
8.00 Brother Felix and the Virgin Saint. The story of a 15th-century German monk who travelled 3,000 miles to touch the bones of his favourite saint (c) (Teletext) (8906)
8.30 Brookside. Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (4513)
9.00 Gardens Without Borders. Alan Mason leads his group of gardening enthusiasts to Charnes which boasts an island bedecked scheme, and to the garden of La Comtesse Helene d'Andlau (Teletext) (s) (5277)
9.30 Chuzzle. The slith and regulars of the popular Boston bar prepare Thanksgiving Day celebrations. (Teletext) (s) (93277)
10.00 Roseanne. Wrecking American domestic comedy series (Teletext) (s) (63548)
10.30 Absolutely. Off-beat comedy. This week the gang explore the excitement of garden furniture (s) (304123)
11.05 The Word. Music and style magazine. The guests include American masochist Jim Rose, and there is music from Manman and Espirito (s) (733432)



Peace envoy: extra-terrestrial John Carradine (12.05am)

12.05am Film: The Cosmic Man (1959, b/w) starring John Carradine. B-movie science fiction about a misunderstood alien. Directed by Herbert Greene (796623)
1.25 Showtime at the Apollo. With singer Brenda Russell and comedians Darryl Swann and Willie Asbury (4911682). Ends at 2.20

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VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (5739003) 5.10-5.40 **Package** Pairs (885000) 6.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 6.25-7.00 **News** (9793062) 7.05 **Anglia Live** (568338) 11.45 **Manned...** with children (10433) 12.10-12.45 **News** (5739003) 1.45 **Home and Away** (551451) 2.10-2.45 **News** (9793062) 3.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 3.20-3.50 **News** (9793062) 4.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 4.25-5.00 **News** (9793062) 5.10-5.40 **Package** Pairs (885000) 6.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 6.25-7.00 **News** (9793062) 7.05 **Anglia Live** (568338) 11.45 **Manned...** with children (10433) 12.10-12.45 **News** (5739003) 1.45 **Home and Away** (551451) 2.10-2.45 **News** (9793062) 3.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 3.20-3.50 **News** (9793062) 4.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 4.25-5.00 **News** (9793062) 5.10-5.40 **Package** Pairs (885000) 6.00 **Home and Away** (551451) 6.25-7.00 **News** (9793062) 7.05 **Anglia Live** (568338) 11.45 **Manned...** with children (10433) 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Wembley result disguises puzzling performances from England's most talented players

Gascoigne leaves Taylor guessing



Barnes: disappointing

By ANDREW LONGMORE

UNLESS he consigns the evidence of an artificial mismatch to the dustbin, where, perhaps, it belongs, Graham Taylor has found more questions than answers in England's facile and laboured victory over San Marino.

With more pressing World Cup qualifying engagements on the horizon in the next three months, the chief of the England football manager's posers — and that is not yet a reference to the beleaguered John Barnes — is whether he should continue to put all his eggs in one basket, particularly when the basket has "Gazza

— handle with care" written on the side.

With typical perversity, Paul Gascoigne chose on Wednesday night to have his worst game for England against one of the worst international teams in the world and had not David Platt, the new captain, who scored four of the six goals and missed a penalty, come to the rescue, England were in danger of becoming the laughing stock of Europe.

Three months ago, after Gascoigne led an impressive dissection of Turkey, Taylor was down on bended knee praying for divine protection for the man around whom he had constructed his team.

Yesterday, he was reflecting anxiously on a performance by Gascoigne so jittery and uninspired that even the simple matter of taking a corner generally proved beyond him.

As the fate of England's World Cup challenge will almost certainly be decided before the end of this season — by visits to Turkey, Poland and Norway and a home tie against Holland — Gascoigne's disenchantment with life at Lazio, the root cause of his lethargy, threatens to destroy Taylor's long-term policy. It is too good having a team of tank engines, if the express is stuck in a siding.

A disciple of the "cuddle and

kick" school of football management, Taylor included a little of both in his assessment of Gascoigne's fitness and state of mind yesterday. "He takes a bit of understanding and, as we know, he is an emotional boy. At the moment, he just seems unhappy."

"His fitness has slipped away in the past three months and it doesn't matter how gifted you are, if you're out of it you can't sustain it, particularly at international level. He knows that, but somewhere along the line he has got to take responsibility for it."

Another indifferent display by Barnes, who undeservedly took the blame for a collective

lack of imagination, but who once more lacked conviction, is less damaging. England can live without Barnes, but not without Gascoigne.

While defending his former protégé to the hilt, even Taylor's patience must be starting to snap, like the Wembley crowd, who jeered the Liverpool captain mildly before the match and with increasing vehemence through it.

Though referring to the expectations built up by the press, Taylor had no idea why the crowd turned on Barnes so suddenly. "If we had spread our goals, one every 15 minutes, people would have been happier," he said. By the

time the rush came, with three goals in the last 15 minutes, the damage to Barnes's psyche had already been done.

Apart from a precious two points and a healthy boost to the goal difference, the main consolation on a largely frustrating night was provided by Platt, who kept his head capped his debut as captain with four goals.

"He makes the most of what he has," Taylor said: namely common sense, fitness and maturity, qualities markedly absent in his fellow Anglo-Italian. Platt has had to endure almost as many frustrations at Juventus as Gascoigne in Rome, but he

seems to have grown with the challenge and it will surely be just a matter of time before he assumes the captaincy permanently.

Ferdinand's persistence was rewarded with a touch-in goal on his debut and he will be in the wings if Wright is unfit. The unsung pair of Barry and Palmer did their long-term causes no harm. The same cannot be said of international football. With due respect to the delightful San Marino, only limited amusement can be gained from watching such a one-sided spectacle.

Jess's flair, page 38
Confident Charlton, page 38

Ready or not,
England are
caught shortSIMON
BARNES

at the Bombay Test

The plane to Bombay was full of an English club cricket tour. Clearly, they had before them the experience of a lifetime. So what were they discussing so avidly, and with such excitement, in the check-in queue? Their bowlers.

Is this a particularly English trait? We take one of the most extraordinary places on earth, compelling and exasperating, horrific and glorious, and we turn it into a lavatory joke.

Reducing India to such a thing does not make it any easier to cope with. But what does? The England cricket team proudly left for India as "the best-prepared team ever to depart these shores".

Keith Fletcher, the manager, had been on a spying mission to South Africa to watch the Indians getting hammered. The players spent six weeks at Lillieshall, playing spin bowling on a special mat. What more could they do?

Now they are 2-0 down with the third and final Test starting here today, and they can only contemplate one of life's eternal truths: no one is ever prepared for India. Even those who prepare for India with love rather than loathing in their hearts are, in the end, unprepared. India is always so much more — well, *Indian* — than you had bargained for. No matter how many times you have been here before, you are newly appalled, newly shocked, newly entranced.

To approach India on an adversarial basis must be infinitely worse. "The basic problem with the English cricketers lies in their attitude and not in the unfavourable conditions they perceive," the *Indian sports magazine Sportsworld* commented.

Graham Gooch, the England captain, was in one of his more clipped moods yesterday. He looked infinitely glum, so far as one could tell behind those ghastly Dame Edna sunglasses that sportsmen are required to wear these days. "We just haven't

coped well with the conditions," he said.

But no, he was not talking about prawns à la Gooch, already a legendary dish. Fit again after his food poisoning, Gooch insisted that he meant not the condition of India, but the conditions of the cricket, and the problem of playing spin bowling on pitches tailored to Indian strengths. Opinions vary about the wicket — will it turn before lunch today?

But Gooch was not criticising even these conditions — only his team's inability to cope with them. Despite all the preparations, the England batsmen have been found unprepared in India. Salisbury and Tufnell were unprepared for the appalling novelty of a team of spin-loving batsmen. They looked demoralised, and there is no bowler in the world more appetising than a demoralised spinner.

Someone recently wrote: "Our cricketers have been relentlessly losing without a shred of concern... The plain truth is that for our cricketers, personal aggrandisement comes before the country's prestige. No one seems to think of the poor nation." This was in a letter in the local press about the Indian team, after their poor show in South Africa.

Now they are back home and strutting about like film stars, while England are the butt of any cheap outrage going. Why is it that defeat in a Test match abroad always sends so much of the population into a state of misery?

For the fact is, it is very difficult to win abroad, and the longer a tour continues, the harder it gets.

So what is the plan for the last Test? A half-smile was briefly visible beneath the Edna-specs. "What do you do when you write a crap article? You try and write a better one, don't you?"

England gamble, page 38
Letters, page 15



Overshadowed: England captain Graham Gooch ponders life in Bombay beneath a statue of Gandhi yesterday

Marathon route
under threat

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE route of this year's Nutrasweet London marathon, on April 18, is in jeopardy because the government will bar runners from Greenwich Park and St James's Park unless the organisers pay £15,000 for using the grass areas and roads.

However, Chris Brasher, the founder of the annual event and chairman of the marathon's board of directors, said yesterday: "Whatever happens, we shall go ahead with the race."

The government is asking the organisers to pay a new charge it has introduced for major events in the royal parks. Otherwise, they will have to move the start from its traditional place in Greenwich Park and also alter the climax of the race, which goes down the Mall, past Buckingham Palace and along Birdcage Walk to the finish on Westminster Bridge.

After 16 months of negotiations, there is an impasse between Brasher, the 1956 Olympic steeplechase gold medal-winner, supported by his board, and the government, led by Robert Key, the Minister for Sport, who wrote on February 8 stating that "the time has come when we must draw it to an end. If you cannot see your way to accepting the charging regime agreed by all other users, I am sorry to say that the royal parks

will not be able to be used by the marathon this year."

The letter says that fees are levied to "cover the cost of remedial work required to repair grass areas damaged by large events like the marathon, compensate for the additional safety responsibilities taken on by the Department of National Heritage, compensate for the disruption to other park users and contribute to the annual running costs of the parks and to improve facilities for users."

Brasher said that the marathon has offered to pay for using Greenwich Park to erect marquees and portaloos, although it will again be using volunteers to clear up litter left behind after the start. However, in St James's Park, the runners only use the roads. Although spectators do line the route, they do not pay. It is also not customary for police charges to be levied for public events.

Brasher described the proposal to charge the marathon runners as a toll. "If we gave way on this, the whole of road running in Britain is in jeopardy." He added that he has already drafted a reply to Key and pointed out that any money that was given to the government would come from the surplus of the marathon, which is given to community sport in the capital. "The minister will be robbing these boroughs."

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- 7 Assistance (4)
- 8 Thrown from saddle (8)
- 9 Copy (6)
- 10 Marks (6)
- 11 Pole boat (4)
- 12 Resentful (8)
- 13 Go-between (8)
- 14 Barred enclosure (4)
- 15 Commendation (6)
- 21 Mental health (6)
- 22 Drug-calmed state (8)
- 23 Cat's-paw (4)

DOWN

- 1 Cosmetic foot treatment (8)
- 2 Liveliness (6)
- 3 Corrected (3,5)
- 4 Retail outlet (4)
- 5 Exasperating (6)
- 6 Pillory (4)
- 13 Rebellion (8)
- 14 Darkness worker (5,3)
- 16 Disguised as woman (2,4)
- 17 Soft roof (6)
- 19 Spool (4)
- 20 Sparse (4)

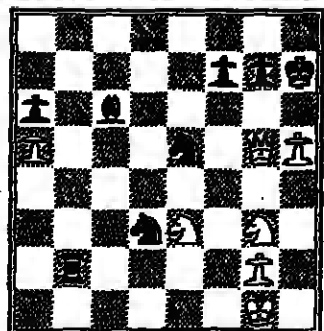
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3025

- ACROSS: 1 Tails 2 Popular 8 Multitude 9 Rep 10 Dig 11 Leftovers 12 Sylph 13 Dingo 14 Incubator 15 Tie 20 Pet 21 Argentina 22 Deposed 23 Eager
- DOWN: 1 Timid 2 Illegal 3 Split the beans 4 Pouffe 5 Preponderance 6 Large 7 Riposte 12 Slipped 14 Rotting 15 Staged 17 Cut up 19 Chair

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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the game Cladouras - Gurevich, Biel 1992. How did black capitalise on his active minor pieces?



Solution on page 36

By PHILIP HOWARD

TOERING

- a. A ring on the toe
 - b. Showing off
 - c. A straw hat
- MANANOSAY
- a. A straw tent
 - b. A clam
 - c. The autumn

BIGARADE

- a. A bitter orange
- b. Billowing soldiers on
- c. A shameless dance

PURGA

- a. An Islamic sacred book
- b. A blizzard
- c. Hindi women's quarters

Answers on page 36